

1. Parish: **Badwell Ash otherwise Little Ashfield**

Meaning: Bada's stream near the field with ash trees

2. **Hundred:** Blackbourn

Deanery: Blackburne (–1884), Thedwastre (1884–1972), Lavenham (1972–)

Union: Stow

RDC/UDC: (W Suffolk) Thedwastre RD (–1974), Mid Suffolk DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Blackbourn Petty Sessional Division
Bury St Edmunds County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,858 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed:

- a. Deep well drained fine loam, coarse loam and sandy soils, locally flinty and in places over gravel. Slight risk water erosion.
- b. Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion.
- c. Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay.
- d. Stoneless clay soils mostly overlying peat. Soils variably affected by groundwater. Risk of localised flooding.

5. **Types of farming:**

1283		247 quarters to crops (1,976 bushels), 25 head of horses, 149 cattle, 78 pigs, 192 sheep*
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Wood-pasture region, mainly pasture, meadow, engaged in rearing and dairying with some pig-keeping, horse-breeding and poultry. Crops mainly barley with some wheat, rye, oats, peas, vetches, hops and occasionally hemp. Some similarities with sheep-corn region where sheep are main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop.
1818	Marshall:	Wide variations of crop and management techniques including summer fallow in preparation for corn and rotation of turnip, barley, clover, wheat on lighter lands.
1937		4 course system of rotation followed.
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

*'A Suffolk Hundred in 1283' by E Powell (1910). Concentrates on Blackbourn

Hundred – gives land usage, livestock and the taxes paid.

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1958/1978 Large compact development on Hunston–Walsham le Willows road. Church centrally situated. Wet lands restrict development to west of settlement. Secondary settlement at Badwell Green.
Sand and gravel quarry and disused pits situated to east of development. Scattered farms.
Inhabited houses: 1674 – 26, 1801 – 43, 1851 – 99, 1871 – 111, 1901 – 90, 1951 – 108, 1981 – 208

8. Communications:

Roads: To Hunston, Walsham le Willows, Great Ashfield and Westhorpe.
Rail: 1844 Carrier to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday and Saturday
1891 4 miles Elmswell station: Bury St Edmunds–Cambridge line, opened 1846, closed for goods 1964, became unmanned halt 1967

9. Population:

1086 – not recorded
1327 – 29 taxpayers paid £2. 6s. 2d.
1524 – membrane either missing or illegible
1603 – 126 adults
1662 – 33 householders paid £4. 11s.
11 poor people recorded as receiving relief
1674 – 42 households
1676 – 105 adults
1801 – 348 inhabitants
1831 – 490 inhabitants
1851 – 478 inhabitants
1871 – 520 inhabitants
1901 – 356 inhabitants
1931 – 330 inhabitants
1951 – 382 inhabitants
1971 – 492 inhabitants
1981 – 574 inhabitants

*The Hearth Tax Return for the Hundred of Blackbourn 1662' transcribed by S Colman. PSIA Vol XXXII part 2, p.168

10. Benefice: Perpetual Curacy 1831, Vicarage 1891

1254 Valued £5. 6s. 8d.
1291 Valued £6.
1341 Valued £6. 19s. 10d.
1535 In hands of Priory of Ixworth valued £15. 5s. 11d.

1831 No glebe house. Gross income £81 p.a.
 1844 Valued £69.
 Good residence built 1854
 23 acres 3R 28P glebe. Gross income £37. 10s. 1887
 Net value £91. p.a. 24 acres glebe with residence. Great tithes
 commuted at £357. Incumbent also olds Rectory of Hunston 1912

Patrons: Miss R Clough 1831, Rev G J Hutchinson 1891,
 E C Newcome 1912

11. Church: **St Mary**
 (Chancel, clerestoried nave, S aisle, porch, W tower)

1086 Ashfield: Church + 12 acres free land
 Church + 9 acres
 14th cent. Chancel, nave and tower
 15th cent. S aisle, porch and tower
 1867/68 Restorations

Seats: 70 appropriated, 290 free 1873

12. Nonconformity etc:

1606 1 person negligent in attending church, 1 person indicted for
 harbouring the aforementioned in his house
 1676 1 nonconformist
 1704–1849 6 houses set aside for worship
 1849 New chapel recorded

13. Manorial:

Badwell Ash or Little Ashfield Manor

Appears probable that this manor was under same lords as
 Great Ashfield
 14th cent. William de Criketot owns
 c.1354 Priory of Ixworth owns
 1538 Richard Codington owns (linked to Santon Downham, Ixworth,
 Ixworth Thorpe and Sapiston)
 1609 Sir John Caryll owns (linked to Ixworth)
 18th cent. R Clough owns (linked to Great Ashfield)
 19th cent. Newcome family gain by marriage and inheritance (linked to
 Great Ashfield)

Sub-Manors:

Strikeland/Shakerland Hall

–1538 Ixworth Priory owns
 1538 Richard Codington (annexed to main manor)
 1570 Alienated to Philip Barrow
 17th cent. William Masham owns (linked to Great Ashfield)
 1733 Robert Clough owns (absorbed by main manor)

Brushes al Brookeshull

–1538 Ixworth Priory
1538 Richard Codington owns (annexed to main manor)
19th cent. John Moseley owns (linked to Drinkstone and Rattlesden)
1841 George Mayhew owns (consists of 306 acres)

Tiptofts al Wyverstone Tiptod's

–1538 Ixworth Priory
1538 Richard Codington owns (absorbed by main manor)

14. Market/Fair:

15. Real Property:

1844 – £2,044 rental value
1891 – £2,226 rateable value
1912 – £1.767 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844–1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

1679 Thomas Blakerby
1891 G E Payne, JP
1912 Rev R S Dewing, MA, and G E Payne, JP

18. Occupations:

1500–1549 1 yeoman, 1 husbandman, 1 butcher, 1 fuller
1550–1599 9 yeomen, 3 husbandmen, 1 labourer, 1 weaver, 1 tailor
1 glover, 1 spinster, 1 cord maker
1600–1649 6 yeomen, 4 husbandmen, 1 tanner, 1 miller, 1 butcher,
1 tailor, 1 blacksmith, 1 spinster
1650–1699 4 yeomen, 1 husbandman, 1 clothier, 1 linen weaver,
1 wheelwright, 1 glazier, 1 cooper, 1 blacksmith
1831 77 in agriculture, 24 in retail trade, 2 professionals,
1 in labouring, 20 in domestic service, 7 others
1844 2 shoemakers, baker, wheelwright, corn miller, carpenter,
2 shopkeepers, victualler, blacksmith, bricklayer, 7 farmers
1912 Sub-postmaster, schoolmistress, 6 farmers, sand merchant,
miller/asst, overseer, grocer/draper, baker/beer retailer,
shopkeeper, publican, wheelwright/blacksmith, farm bailiff
Several gravel pits in Back Lane, to rear of Vicarage and Mill.

19. Education:

1833 1 daily school established 1832 (22 girls attend)

1 Sunday school established 1832 (60 attend)
Parochial school built 1861, average attendance 62 1891
70 1912
New school built c.1968

20. Poor relief:

1776	£67. 11s. 6d.
1803	£406.10s. 8½d.
1818	£489.
1830	£784. 12s.
1832	£327. 8s.
1834	£526. 10s.

21. Charities:

Town Trust Estate:

Of remote origin: includes Town House (occupied by poor), 11 acres+ land let at £12. 3s. 6d p.a. 1840, applied to church repairs and other ordinary expenses.

Blackerby's Gift:

1661/2 by will of Thomas Blackerby: £1. 4s. p.a. paid to churchwardens and distributed in bread at the church.

Bequest of Thomas Richer:

1843 £400 to Suffolk General Hospital + dividends on £1,200 3% consols for poor to be distributed in coals.

Bequest of Misses Clough:

c.1891 £27 p.a. for distribution to poor on New Years Day.

22. Other institutions:

1844 Town House occupied rent free by poor families

23. Recreation:

1844/1912	The White Horse public house
1891/1912	1 beer retailer
	Parkers Farmhouse restaurant 1981

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Badwell Ash Hall (High House): Large fragment of Elizabethan house, main hall constructed c.1500. Grade II listed. Much 19th century restoration and additions.

Message and malting office (used as warehouse) from 1802. Documents exist relating to this 1703–1810

Leasing agreement exists for message and 'bleaching' ground in Badwell 1854

Numerous affiliation and Bastardy papers exist 1709–1832

New village hall opened 1986, original hall burned down c.1980

Note of customs of parish of Badwell Ash 1677 in Parish folder for Bardwell