

1. Parish: Bardwell

Meaning: Bearda's spring or brim/bank of spring

2. **Hundred:** Blackbourn

Deanery: Blackburne (–1972), Ixworth (1972–)

Union: Thingoe (1836–1907), Bury St Edmunds (1907–1930)

RDC/UDC: (W Suffolk) Thingoe RD (–1974), St Edmundsbury DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Blackbourn Petty Sessional Division
Bury St Edmunds County Court District

3. **Area:** 3,173 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed:

- a. Fine loam over clay soils, slowly permeable subsoils, slight seasonal waterlogging. Some calcareous/non calcareous slowly permeable clay soils.
- b. Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay.
- c. Shallow well drained calcareous coarse loam and sandy soils over chalk rubble. Slight risk water erosion.
- d. Deep permeable sand and peat soils affected by ground water. Risk of winter flooding and wind erosion near river.

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		2 parts of mill, 11 acres meadow, wood for 8 pigs
1283		953 quarters to crops, 89 head horses, 456 cattle, 202 pigs, 1313 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. Also has similarities with sheep-corn region where sheep are main fertilising 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	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, oats, turnips
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:

1832 678 acres enclosed under Private Acts of Land 1829

7. Settlement:

1980 Long irregular shaped parish with large, relatively compact development in southern sector. Church centrally situated. River Blackbourn flows N-S across parish forming natural boundary to west for part of its length. Wet lands to east of river restricts development in this area. Some scattered farms.
Inhabited houses: 1674 – 55, 1801 – 66, 1851 – 193, 1871 – 191, 1901 – 167, 1951 – 196, 1981 – 257

8. Communications:

Roads: To Ixworth Thorpe, Ixworth, Stanton and Sapiston
1891 Carrier to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday and Saturday
1912 Carriers to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

Rail: 1891 6 miles Thurston station: Bury St Edmunds–Cambridge line, opened 1846, closed for goods 1964, became unmanned halt 1967

Water: River Blackbourn

9. Population:

1086 – 86 recorded (includes Wyken Domesday Vill)
1327 – 47 taxpayers paid £5 7s. 8d.
1524 – Membrane either missing or illegible
1603 – 209 adults
1662 – 50 householders paid £8 3s.*
1674 – 64 households
1676 – 212 adults
1801 – 556 inhabitants
1831 – 799 inhabitants
1851 – 893 inhabitants
1871 – 806 inhabitants
1901 – 668 inhabitants
1931 – 623 inhabitants
1951 – 604 inhabitants
1971 – 610 inhabitants
1981 – 685 inhabitants

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

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254	Valued £13 6s. 8d. Portion of the Priory 6s. 8d.	£13 13s. 4d.
1291	Valued £17 6s. 8d. Portion of Prior of Ixworth 6s. 8d. Portion of Rector of St Johns, Stanton 2s.	£17 15s. 4d.
1341	Valued £17 3s. 2d.	
1535	Valued £7 17s. 1½d. Portion of Prior of Ixworth 6s. 8d.	£8 3s. 9½d.
1831	1 curate, stipend £80 p.a. Glebe House. Rectory house built c.1834 Valued £597 1835 Tithes commuted for £788 p.a. 1839 Valued £726 1873 39 acres 3R 15P glebe. Gross income £29 2s. 6d. 1887	Gross income £597 p.a.
1891	Glebe 40 acres, large rectory house	
1912	Net value £415 p.a. 37 acres glebe and residence	

Patrons: Prior and Convent of Bromham (1304–1349 and 1393–1504), John de Cove and John de Somerton (1361), Thomas Hodgekin (1541), Bishop of Norwich (1554), The Crown (1574–1631), St Johns College Oxford (1676–)

11. Church: Saints Peter and Paul

(Chancel, embattled nave, S porch, W tower, short spire)

1086	Church + 8 acres free land
1421	Re-roofed by Sir William de Bardwell, porch rebuilt 15 th cent. tower and S porch
1553	Chancel
1853	Restoration

'Paintings on the walls of Bardwell Church', PSIA Vol II, p.41.

Seats: 100 appropriated, 300 free (1873)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1606	2 persons and their servants accused of non-attendance at church Wife of Charles Croft refuses to receive communion at hands of the minister, Mr Newcome
c.1723	Quaker meeting house and burial ground. Meetings discontinued and house used as schoolroom 1842
1822–1843	5 houses set aside for worship Baptist chapel built 1824
1844	Wesleyan chapel listed.

13. Manorial:

1086	Lands belonged to Abbot of St Edmunds although not as a manor
c.1097	Granted to Ralph de Berdewell in fee

1484 Allotted to Thomas Darcy (linked to Stowmarket, Woolpit, Great Ashfield and Elmswell)
 1495 Valued 5 marks and held of the Abbot of Bury by Knights Service Vested in George Brond and immediately sold to Sir Thomas Jermyn (linked to Bradfield Combust, Rougham and Lt Whelnetham)
 c.1772 Sir Patrick Blake (linked to Langham)
 1905 Sir Patrick Blake owns

Sub-Manors:

Wykes/Wicken

1066 Manor of 1 carucate held by Alan
 1086 Manor of 1 carucate belonging to Peter of Valognes
 1066 Manor of 1 carucate held by Aki
 1086 Manor of 1 carucate belonging to Robert Blunt
 1230/40 Grant to Hugo de Schardelolke together with advowson of Bardwell Church
 1264 Richard de Wykes owns
 1404 Sir William Berdewell owns (annexed to main manor)
 1553 Sir John Croftes owns (linked to Wangford, Ampton, Barnham, Lt Livermere and West Stow)
 1699 Charles Crofts Read owns
 1723 Clement Gorrance owns (linked to Rougham)
 1785 Augustus, Viscount Keppel, Baron of Elveden
 1805 Earl of Albermarle owns

Wyken Hall

1742–47 Lady Anne Corrance owns
 1785 Lady Caterin Castle owns
 1804 Edward Bouverie owns
 1815 Thomas Halifax owns (linked to Shimpling)
 1905 A M Wilson owns (linked to Langham and Stowlangtoft)

14. Market/Fair:

15. Real Property:

1844 £2,972 rental value
 1891 £3,378 rateable value
 1912 £3,012 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844–1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

1674 Capt Pennington
 1679 William Rushbrooke
 1844 Rev H. Adams BD
 1891 Sir P.J.G. Blake JP, Rev F.E. Warren BD, FSA

1912 Sir Patrick J.G. Blake JP

18. Occupations:

1500–1549 1 priest/minister
1550–1599 4 husbandmen, 4 yeomen, 1 priest/minister, 1 bricklayer
1600–1649 3 husbandmen, 6 labourers, 17 yeomen, 2 tailors, 1 cordwainer/
shoemaker, 1 blacksmith, 1 miller, 1 shepherd, 1 clerk
1650–1699 1 carpenter, 6 husbandmen, 1 maltster, 1 gardener, 3 labourers,
20 yeomen, 1 priest/minister, 4 tailors, 2 spinsters, 4 cordwainer/
shoemakers, 1 linen weaver, 1 sawyer, 1 blacksmith, 1 thatcher
1831 136 in agriculture, 32 in retail trade, 1 professional, 31 in
domestic service, 24 others
1844 Blacksmith, bricklayer, gamekeeper, butcher, 2 victuallers, 3
academies, 2 beerhouse keepers, 3 carpenters, wheelwright,
2 corn millers, 4 shoemakers, 13 farmers, 2 grocer/drapers
1912 Sub-postmaster, schoolmaster, 3 butchers, 13 farmers, head
gardener, grocer/insurance agent, 2 farm bailiffs, 2 publicans,
bricklayer, shopkeeper/beer retailer, 2 millers, gamekeeper, 2
blacksmiths, insurance agent, baker/beer retailer, grocer/
draper/outfitter/boot dealer/builder/wheelwright/undertaker,
carpenter, baker, thatcher, 2 carriers, bootmaker

19. Education:

1 endowed school founded 17th cent. by Crofte and Reade
families, 36 attend 1818, 38 in 1833, 80+ 1867
1833 1 daily school established 1825 (24 attend)
1818 1 Sunday school (46 attend)
1833 1 Baptist Sunday school established 1825 (50 attend)
1844 3 academies listed
1891 School building established c.1854 for religious education under
Government inspection
Schoolmaster listed
Accounts of Day and Night schools 1899–1905
1912 Public Elementary school built 1854 on site given by Sir H.C.
Blake, average attendance 105

20. Poor relief:

1776 £137 7s. 3d.
1803 £475 3s. 0³/₄d.
1818 £1,103 7s.
1830 £1,306 11s.
1832 £1,170 3s.
1834 £1,058 9s.

21. Charities:

Town Estate:

c.1639 Land and property (Guildhall occupied by poor, 4 cottages and
54 acres 2R 34P) let at £87 11s. p.a. applied to repairs to
Guildhall and church, churchwardens expenses, allowance of

£13 p.a. to support charity school, surplus distributed among poor.
£5 from the Duke of Grafton applied with above.

Reade's Charity:

1677 By will of Thomas Reade: 4½ acres let at £3 p.a. + £13 from town lands to education.

Green's Dole:

1595 From John Green: 3s. 4d from land called Guttrage's Acre, Ixworth Thorpe payable to poor widows on Christmas Day.

Garrard's Charity:

1660/1 By will of Robert Garrard: 3 acres let to the parish at £3 p.a. distributed to 10 poor widows on Christmas Day.

Jeffes' Gift:

1822 By will of John Jeffes: £3 p.a. payable on St Thomas' Day to provide dinner for 10 men and 10 poor women on Christmas Day.

Allotments:

2 acres 3R 25P awarded on enclosure in lieu of their right of cutting fuel. Let at £53 15s. 3d. p.a. 1891 and distributed in coals.

22. Other institutions:

1844 Guild of St Peter c.1474
'Guild of St Peter in Bardwell' by F.E. Warren, PSIA Vol XI, p.81
Guildhall listed
Ancient almhouse accommodating 11 families
Women's Institute records 1946–1969
Home Guard and club room 1944

23. Recreation:

1844–1912 The Green Man and The Six Bells public houses
1844 2 beerhouses
1891 1 beer retailer, 1 beerhouse
1912 2 beer retailers
Fire report at 'Dun Cow Inn' 1921
Football team c.1938

24. Personal:

'The Crofts of Bardwell' contained in Little Saxham Parish Registers (published edition)

25. Other information:

Church wardens accounts 1520, PSIA Vol XI, p.110.

Town Estate accounts 1516–20, PSIA Vol XI, p.114.

Mention is made of 'payd for bread and cheese and ale to making of the butts' 1522/3.

Published registers 1538–1650.

Map of Bardwell Hall manor 1730.

Rentals of Bardwell Hall Manor c.1300, 1717 and 1767–1792.

A Bardwell Hall was situated in Bowbeck hamlet dating from c.1300, excavated 1959.

Wykes manor Court books (1655-1864)

Bardwell tower mill, renovated and working (1987)

Pelham House: 15th cent. building with 18/19th C additions. Grade II listed.

3 Manorial extents of the 13th cent., one of which relates to Wykes manor, by Rev. W. Hudson. Oversized extract in R.O. Local Histories section.