

1. Parish: Barton Mills

Meaning: Corn farm by the mill

2. **Hundred:** Lackford

Deanery: Fordwich (–1862), Fordwich (Suffolk) (1862–1884), Mildenhall (1884–)

Union: Mildenhall

RDC/UDC: (W Suffolk) Mildenhall RD (–1974), Forest Heath DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Lackford Petty Sessional Division
Mildenhall County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,878 acres land, 10 acres water (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed:

- a. Well drained chalk, fine loam over chalk rubble, some non-chalk loam in places. Slight risk water erosion
- b. Deep well drained sandy soil. Some very acid especially under heath/woodland. Risk wind erosion
- c. Deep peat soils near to River Lark

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		2 fisheries, 2 acres meadow, 2 horses, 5 cattle, 3 sheep, 3 pigs
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep–corn region, sheep main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening, barley main cash crop Fen: little or no arable land, commons spacious yielding hay and grass for animals and peat for fuel
1813	Young:	300 acres common fen (30/40 subject to flooding), 500 acres common sheep walk, 300 acres under corn, 200 score sheep
1818	Marshall:	Management varies with condition of sandy soils. Rotation usually turnip, barley, clover, wheat or turnips as preparation for corn and grass Fen: large areas of pasture with little ploughed or arable land
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, turnips, mangold–wurtzels
1969	Trist:	Barley and sugar beet are the main crops with some rye grown on poorer lands and a little wheat, herbage seeds and carrots Fen: Deficiencies in minerals are overcome and these lands are now more suited to arable farming with wide range of produced grown

6. Enclosure:

1798 1,849 acres enclosed at Barton Mills and Little Barton under Enclosure by Private Acts of Lands 1796

7. Settlement:

1974 Moderate sized community close to N parish boundary. Main development south of and following line of River Lark. River crossing at eastern end of development. Church and Barton Hall centrally situated. Secondary centre at old station. Plantation at southern portion of parish and at NE corner thus restricting development.
Some scattered farms
Inhabited houses: 1674 – 18, 1801 – 53, 1851 – 138,
1871 – 129, 1901 – 108, 1951 – 162,
1981 – 312

8. Communications:

Roads: To Newmarket, Herringswell, Tuddenham, Mildenhall and Elveden
1844 2 carriers to Kings Lynn and London daily to Holt Friday to Wells Monday and Thursday
1891 Carriers pass through to Bury St Edmunds, Wednesday and Saturday
1912 Situated on main Norwich – London road (old Turnpike Road)
Carriers pass through to Bury St Edmunds daily
Rail: 1891 1 mile Mildenhall station: Cambridge–Mildenhall line, opened 1885, closed for passengers 1962, closed for goods 1964.
Ely–Norwich line, opened 1845, station closed for goods 1966, unmanned halt 1967.
Water: River Lark: River Lark Navigation Scheme 1889–1901.

9. Population:

1086 – 24 recorded
1327 – 24 taxpayers paid £2 16s. 11.
1524 – Not recorded
1603 – 70 adults
1674 – 28 households
1676 – 101 adults
1801 – 305 inhabitants
1831 – 591 inhabitants
1851 – 642 inhabitants
1871 – 536 inhabitants
1901 – 444 inhabitants
1931 – 466 inhabitants
1951 – 561 inhabitants

1971 – 767 inhabitants

1981 – 869 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254 Valued £13 6s. 8d.
Portion to Prior of Stoke (Stoke by Clare) £2
To manor of St Edmund £10
To the Templars at Twygrond £5 £30 6s. 8d.
1291 Valued £20
Portion of Stoke £2 £22 0s. 0d.
1535 Valued £14 15s. 10½d.
Parsonage has 7 hearths 1674
Tithes commuted for allotment of 600 acres 1796
1831 Good residence. Gross income £550 p.a. Incumbent also
holds Vicarage of Witcham, Cambs
189 acres or 24P glebe. Glebe rental £154 1887
1891 Valued £450 (gross)

Patrons: King (1603), Crown (1831), Lord Chancellor (1918)

11. Church: St Mary
(Chancel, nave, aisles, S porch, W tower)

Late 12th cent. Tower
c.1200 W doorway, chancel, nave
14th cent. Stoup in S porch
1903/1905 Restorations

Seats: 200 (1918)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1676 2 papists
1801 1st chapel/meeting house (Baptist) opened 1810
Baptist chapel built 1843/44

13. Manorial:

Barton Mills/Monks Hall

c.1553 Abbot of St Edmunds owns
1553 Simon Steward owns (linked to Lakenheath)
1786 Thomas Thoresby owns
1885 O.T. Read of Mildenhall owns

Sub-Manors:

Shardelowes

Pre 13th cent. William de Talsham owns
13th cent. Shardelow family owns
1547 Reginald Tillot owns

W Bonners and Torkleys

1796 Jointly vested in John Swale and William Finch Palmer

Pooley Barton

1487 Henry Poley of Boxted Hall owns (linked to Icklingham)

1548 Edmund Poley died seised
Nothing more known

14. Market/Fair:

1220/21 Grant of market and fair to 'Tuwand': could refer to Barton Mills

15. Real Property:

1844 – £2,995 rental value
1891 – £2,558 rateable value
1912 – £2,501 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1891 W T Squire of Barton Place has largest land holding
1912 Marquis of Bristol, principal owner

17. Resident gentry:

1844 Capt. W.T. Squire and Rev. J. Fox, BA
1912 F.S. Ireland, JP

18. Occupations:

13th cent. Mills
1500–1549 1 yeoman
1550–1599 1 labourer, 4 husbandmen, 1 parson, 1 parish clerk
1600–1649 3 husbandmen, 6 yeomen, 1 shepherd, 1 maltster, 1 carpenter,
1 butcher
1650–1699 2 labourers, 4 yeomen, 1 clerk, 1 carpenter, 1 cordwainer,
2 millers
1831 51 in agriculture, 44 in retail trade, 2 professionals,
34 in labouring, 28 in domestic service, 6 others
1844 Large corn mill and wharf
2 carriers, 2 victuallers, schoolmaster/mistress,
corn/coal seed merchants, corn merchant, corn miller/
merchant/maltster, tailor, solicitor, bricklayer, carriers agent,
butcher, 2 beerhouse keepers, baker, 2 blacksmiths, 4 boot/
shoemakers, 3 carpenters, 4 farmers
1912 Sub-postmistress, teacher, 4 farmers, general dealer, 2 beer
retailers, 2 shopkeepers, surveyor, thatcher, coal dealer/carter,
grocer, agent, maltster, roller mills, carpenter, hotel owner,
poultry farmer, 2 publicans, baker

19. Education:

1833 3 daily schools (76 attend), 1 Baptist Sunday school (70 attend)
1844 1 schoolmaster and 1 schoolmistress recorded
Public Elementary school built 1845, average attendance
1912 47
1891 School Board established

20. Poor relief:

1776 £25 9s. 6d.
1803 £290 7s. 0½d.
1818 £526 18s.
1830 £250 2s.
1832 £287 4s.
1834 £320 12s.

21. Charities:

Davies Charity

1692 by will of Rev James Davies: 14 acres in Turf-fen or Fodder Fen
let at £12/13 p.a.
Rents distributed according to family size, to the poor on St
Stephens Day and Easter Monday

Malabar's Charity

1732 by Codicil of Rev Thomas Malabar: 20s. p.a. Distributed among
poor

22. Other institutions:

Guild in honour of Assumption of St Mary 1389.
Medieval Templars Preceptory of St Mary mentioned 1312, documentary
evidence only, site unknown (Basil Brown archive Vol. XX).
Village Hall built 1946.

23. Recreation:

1844 The Bull Inn (Posting House) and The Dog and Partridge public
houses. 2 beerhouses
1891 4 beerhouses and The Bull public house
1912 2 beer retailers, The Bull Hotel, The Dog and Partridge and The
Bell Inn public house

24. Personal:

S.F. Sparke (blacksmith) wrote poem about Martha Fletcher (native of
Tuddenham Green) whose body was sold by workhouse for dissection at
Cambridge 1888.
Sir Alexander Fleming: (discoverer of penicillin) lived for many years at
'The Dhoon'.

25. Other information:

Fulling mill and fishery at Barton Parva Grange (13th cent.), lasted until 1285.
Converted to grain mill 1289.

Barton Parva Grange', by J.T. Munday 1975.

Bull Inn: coaching inn on London–Norwich road.

Wealda Hall House: 15th cent., Grade II listed.

Barton Hall: Residential home for autistic children 1981.

Glebe Cottage: (19th cent.) Gothic folly, converted into rectory 1980.

Village sign erected 1976.

Bypass opened by Minister of Transport, Mr Peter Bottomley 1986.