

1. Parish: Belton

Meaning: Village/homestead in clearing of dry land surrounded by fen (Ekwall)

2. Hundred:

Lothingland (-1764), Mutford and Lothingland (1764-1974), transferred to Norfolk (1974)

Deanery: Lothingland (-1970), Flegg (1970-)

Union: Mutford and Lothingland

RDC/UDC: (E. Suffolk) Mutford and Lothingland RD (1894-1934), Lothingland RD (1934-1974), transferred to Norfolk (1974)

Other administrative details:

Mutford and Lothingland Petty Sessional Division
Great Yarmouth County Court District

3. Area:

2,030 acres (674 acres on river/marshland, 27 acres water, 9 acres tidal water) (1912)

4. Soils:

Deep well drained coarse laom often stoneless soils, risk water erosion

5. Types of farming:

1086		2 cobs, 270 sheep, 4½ acres meadow, 7 cattle, wood for 3 pigs
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep-corn region, sheep main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop
1818	Marshall:	Management varies with condition of sandy soils. Rotation usually turnips as preparation for corn and grass
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, turnips, hay
1969	Trist:	Barley and sugar beet are the main crops with some rye grown on poorer lands a little wheat herbage seeds and carrots

6. Enclosure:

1814 786 acres enclosed under Private Act of Lands 1809

7. Settlement:

Complete amps unavailable – see Norfolk Records Office for details

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 27, 1801 – 52, 1851 – 102, 1871 – 128,
1901 – 174, 1951 – 263, 1981 – see Norfolk

8. Communications:

Rail: 1891 Rail station: Southtown (Yarmouth) – Beccles line
opened (1859), closed for passengers (1959), closed
for goods (1965)

Water: 300 acres marsh near River Waveney
River Waveney: Act passed to make Waveney navigable
(1670)
Decline marked by beginning of rail travel (1852)

9. Population:

1086 — 19 recorded (includes Domesday vill of Gabton)
1327 — 39 taxpayers paid £2. 6s. 4d.
1524 — 24 taxpayers paid £1. 11s. 4d.
1603 — 104 adults
1674 — 36 households
1676 — Not recorded
1801 — 350 inhabitants
1831 — 424 inhabitants
1851 — 489 inhabitants
1871 — 582 inhabitants
1901 — 836 inhabitants
1931 — 833 inhabitants
1951 — 809 inhabitants
1971 — 1,800 inhabitants
1981 — see Norfolk

10. Benefice: Rectory (1831), Discharged Rectory (1891)

1254 Valued £9. 6s. 8d.
1291 Valued £17. 6s. 8d.
1535 Valued £17. 15s.
1831 Glebe house, gross income £362 p.a.
1844 Modus of £440 p.a. 12 acres glebe, neat modern
residence
1912 Nett value £276 p.a. 19 acres glebe and residence

Patrons:

Bishop of Norwich (1603 -)

11. Church All Saints
(Chancel, nave, S. porch, circular tower)

Norman Font, discovered (1849)
14th cent. Main structure, including nave and chancel
14/15th cent. Mural paintings, S. porch
1849-1887 Restoration: Tower rebuilt (1849)
 Chancel restored (1866)
 Nave restored (1881)
 Reredos installed (1887)

Seats: 263 (1912)

12. Nonconformity etc:

Primitive Methodist Chapel built (1857)
Primitive Methodist Chapel built (1896), seats 200

13. Manorial:

Belton Manor/Gapton Hall

Domesday vill of Gapton (Gabbetuna)
1066 Manor of 2 carucates held by Wulfsi
1086 Manor of 2 carucates belonging to the King
1066 Manor of 60 acres held by Ulf, a free man
1086 Manor of 60 acres belonging to the King
12th cent. Baluri de Bosco owns
Circa 1230 Ralph Gernun and Osbert de Gladesa who granted the
 manor to Leigh Priory, Essex
1536 Richard Cavendish owns (linked to Bradwell and
 Wenham Magna)
Circa 1591 John Wentworth owns (linked to Ashby, Bradwell, Corton,
 Lound, Somerleyton and Flixton)
1672 Admiral Sir Thomas Allin owns (linked to Ashby,
 Blundeston, Bradwell, Carlton Colville, Corton, Flixton,
 Somerleyton, Mutford, Lound, Gorleston and Fritton)
Circa 1843 Lord S.G. Osborne owns (linked to Ashby, Blundeston,
 Bradwell, Cartol Colville, Corton, Flixton, Somerleyton,
 Mutford, Lound and Gorleston)
1844 Samuel Morton Peto owns (linked to Ashby, Blundeston,
 Bradwell, Carlton Colville, Corton, Flixton, Somerleyton,
 Rushmere, Mutford, Lound and Gorleston)
1885 Richard Henry Reeve owns (linked to Ashby, Blundeston,
 Bradwell, Carlton Colville, Corton, Flixton, Rushmere,
 Pakefield, Mutford, Lound, Kirkley, Gorleston and
 Gisleham)

14. Markets/Fairs

Grant of market and fair (1270)

15. Real property:

1844	£1,941 rental value
1891	£3,355 rateable value
1912	£4,849 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844-1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

1912 G.J. Larkman JP, Rev. A.S. Lindeman MA, Capt. J.R. Prickett RN JP

18. Occupations:

1550–1599	2 yeomen, 5 husbandmen
1600–1649	3 yeomen, 2 tailors, 1 husbandman, 3 labourers
1650–1699	7 yeomen, 2 tailors, 1 husbandman, 1 cordwainer
1831	75 in agriculture, 19 in retail trade, 1 professional, 8 in labouring, 20 in domestic service, 1 other
1844	Solicitor, 2 blacksmiths, victualler, butcher, 2 joiners, school-master, gardener, 2 shoemakers, 9 farmers
1912	Sub-postmaster, schoolmaster, boot repairer, 7 farmers, registrar, 22 market gardeners, butcher/market gardener, threshing machine owner, coal/coke merchant, wheelwright, blacksmith, boot repairer, van/cart builders, bricklayer, florist/nurseryman, cycle dealer, station master, beer retailer, poultry farmer, insurance agent, hotel owner, tax collector, grocer/farmer

19. Education:

1818	2 day schools (32 attend)
1833	1 day school (71 attend), 1 Sunday school (58 attend)

National school built (1835), rebuilt (1820) [?dates wrong way round?], 130 attend (1891), enlarged (1896 and 1910), average attendance (1912) 176

20. Poor relief:

1776	£42. 10s. 10d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£54. 14s. 9d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£127. 3s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£150. 6s.	spent on poor relief

1832	£109. 12s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£109. 7s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Church Lands:

1840	1 acre 2R 18P held rent free by parish clerk 5 acres 2R 18P let at £6. 6s. p.a. applied to church expenses
------	---

Poors Allotment

1825	Allotment of 9 acres 0R 9P let at £12. 12s. p.a. applied to distribution of coals to poor in winter
------	---

22. Other institutions:

Police officer listed (1891)
Belton institute and Reading Room built (1885), seats: 300; managed by nine member committee

23. Recreation:

1844	THE KINGS HEAD public house
1891	THE KINGS HEAD public house, 1 beerhouse
1912	Belton Pleasure Gardens, 1 beer retailer, THE KINGS HEAD hotel

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Registers record serious outbreak of plague (1665)
Black Mill and Caldecot Mill – derelict drainage tower mills (1961)

Archaeological Sites

See Norfolk