

1. Parish: Blundeston

Meaning: Blunt's homestead/village (Ekwall)

2. **Hundred:** Lothingland (- 1764), Mutford and Lothingland (1764-)

Deanery: Lothingland

Union: Mutford and Lothingland

RDC/UDC: (E. Suffolk) Mutford and Lothingland RD (1894-1934),
Lothingland RD (1934-1974), Waveney DC (1974-)

Other administrative details:

Mutford and Lothingland Petty Sessional Division
Lowestoft County Court District

3. **Area:**

1,564 acres land, 19 acres tidal water, 14 acres foreshore (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed: a) Stoneless slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged coarse loam soils and silt over clay. Some deep coarse loam affected by groundwater
b) Deep well drained coarse loam often stoneless soils, risk water erosion

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		Wood for 4 pigs, ½ acre meadow
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep-corn region where sheep are main fertilizing agent bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop. Also has similarities with wood-pasture region with pasture, meadow, dairying and some pig-keeping
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, peas, beans, hay
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

1805 953 acres enclosed under Private Act of Lands 1803

7. Settlement:

1971 Moderate sized compact development. Church centrally situated. H.M. Prison positioned on Southern boundary. Marshland occupies western sector of parish. Scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 26, 1801 – 66, 1851 – 140, 1871 – 167, 1901 – 168, 1951 – 210, 1981 – 374

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Lound, Corton, Flixton, Lowestoft and Somerleyton
1891 Carriers to Yarmouth Wednesday and Saturday
1912 Carriers to Lowestoft daily and Yarmouth on Wednesday

Rail: 1891 2 miles Somerleyton station: Lowestoft – Norwich line opened (1844), still operative

9. Population:

1086 — 1½ recorded
1327 — 28 taxpayers paid £1. 18s. 3d.
1524 — 26 taxpayers paid £2. 16s. 6d.
1603 — 70 adults
1674 — 30 households
1676 — Not recorded
1801 — 386 inhabitants
1831 — 517 inhabitants
1851 — 663 inhabitants
1871 — 716 inhabitants
1901 — 737 inhabitants
1931 — 682 inhabitants
1951 — 660 inhabitants
1971 — 1,443 inhabitants
1981 — 1,480 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Rectory (with Flixton) (1831)
Discharged Rectory (1891)**

1254 Valued £9. 6s. 8d.
1291 Valued £13. 6s. 8d.
1535 Valued £3. 16s. 8d.
Parsonage has 5 hearths (1674)
Consolidated with Flixton (1703)
1831 Glebe house, gross income £617 p.a. Incumbent also holds Rectory of Somerleyton
1844 12 acres 31P glebe. Tithes commuted for £455 p.a.
1912 Joint nett value £350 p.a. 12 acres glebe and residence

Patrons:

Custos Sequestr (1312), Blundeston family (1318-1362), T.F. de Luthingland (1385), O.R. de Ingham (1398), Thomas de Erpingham (1400), Robert Palgrave (1428), Henry Yarmouth (1454-1460), Robert Unglosse (1465), Blomevyle family (1511-1527), Thomasine Lake (1540), Humphrey Yarmouth (1553), William Sydnor (1587-1624), Thomas Fuller (1643), Sir Thomas Allin (1690-92, and 1726-32), Mary Love (1770), George Anguish (1817), Lord S.G. Osborne (1844), Thomas Morse (1891), H.H. MacDougal Rawson (1912)

11. Church St. Mary (Chancel, nave, S. porch, round NW tower)

Norman	Walls and tower, upper stages (circa 13 th cent.), N. doorway (very small tower 8'9" inside the walls)
14 th cent.	Nave rebuilt
1867	Chancel rebuilt

Seats: 350 (1912)

12. Nonconformity etc:

Wesleyan chapel built (1816)

13. Manorial:

Blundeston Hall

13 th cent.	Henry de Blundeston owns
15 th cent.	Yarmouth family owns
1570	William Sydnor owns (linked to Henstead and Fritton) (Deed of conveyance still exists in Bodleian Charters)
1651	William Heveningham owns (linked to Fritton and Lound)
1662	Sir John Tasburgh owns (linked to Carlton Colville)
1668	Sir Thomas Allin owns (linked to Ashby, Belton, Bradwel, Carlton Colville, Corton, Flixton, Somerleyton, Mutford, Lound, Gorleston and Fritton)
Circa 1843	Lord S.G. Osborne owns (lined to Ashby, Belton, Bradwell, Carlton Colville, Corton, Flixton, Somerleyton, Mutford, Lound and Gorleston)
1844	Samuel Morton Peto owns (linked to Ashby, Belton, Bradwell, Carlton Colville, Corton, Flixton, Somerleyton, Rushmere, Mutford, Lound and Gorleston)
1885	Richard Henry Reeve owns (linked to Ashby, Belton, Bradwell, Carlton Colville, Corton, Flixton, Somerleyton, Rushmere, Mutford, Lound, Gorleston and Gisleham)

Sub-Manors:

Gunville's al Blunston Gunville's

1253	Roger de Colville owns
1285	William de Gonville owns (linked to Elveden)
1528	Consists of 9 messuages, 302 acres land, 16 acres meadow
1538	Sir John Jernegan owns (linked to Bradwell, Flixton and Kessingland)
1608	William Sydnor owns (absorbed by Blundeston Hall)

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844	£2,397 rental value
1891	£3,119 rateable value
1912	£3,205 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844-1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

1674	Sir Thomas Allin
1844	C. Steward
1891	L. Peto JP, Mrs. Johnson
1912	Rev. R.F. Cory BA, B. Hall JP, L.J. Peto JP, T.H. Woods JP

18. Occupations:

1550–1599	1 husbandman, 2 yeomen, 1 blacksmith, 1 tailor
1600–1649	3 husbandmen, 6 yeomen, 1 joiner, 1 gardener, 1 weaver, 2 labourers, 1 fisherman, 1 tailor
1650–1699	1 rector, 1 husbandman, 1 linen weaver, 6 yeomen, 1 miller, 1 clerk
1831	94 in agriculture, 24 in retail trade, 3 professionals, 9 in labouring, 20 in domestic service, 4 others
1844	Painter, maltster/brewer/beerhouse keeper, 2 blacksmiths, wheelwright, corn miller, bricklayer, curate, builder/brick and tile manufacturer, 2 joiners, schoolmaster, 1 farmers, shopkeeper, butcher/victualler, beerhouse keeper, 3 boot/shoemakers
1912	Sub-postmaster, police officer, coal dealer/carrier, saddler, publican, midwife, beer retailer, 6 farmers, baker/miller, pork butcher, grocer, asst. overseer, insurance agent, 6 market gardeners, 2 painters,

carpenter, blacksmith, nurseryman, bricklayer, carrier, butcher, 2 fishmongers, 2 boot/shoemakers, glass/china dealer, beer retailer/carpenter, grocer/draper, carpenter

19. Education:

- 1726 House and 1 acres 2R bequeathed by Rev. G. Clarke for support of school
- 1818 2/4 educated from endowment
School rebuilt (1823). Land now consists of 2 acres 2R 9P
Master paid 20s. for each of the 12 pupils
- 1833 1 daily school (18 attend, 12 free), 3 daily schools (32 attend)
New school built (1850), enlarged (1872 and 1894), 160 attend (1891), average attendance (1912) 159

20. Poor relief:

- | | | |
|------|---------------|----------------------|
| 1776 | £22. 17s. 1d. | spent on poor relief |
| 1803 | £41. 1s. 8d. | spent on poor relief |
| 1818 | £45. 14s. | spent on poor relief |
| 1830 | £62. 17s. | spent on poor relief |
| 1832 | £96. 9s. | spent on poor relief |
| 1834 | £129. 7s. | spent on poor relief |

21. Charities:

Town Estate:

- 1840 3 small cottages, allotment of 20P, ½ acre called Town Pightle, allotment of 2 acres 1R 22P on Plough Common and 1 acre used as stackyard, let at £19 p.a. (1 cottage occupied by poor rent free) applied to general account of overseer of the poor

Bays's Charity:

- 1840 by will of Anthony Bays: House, barn and hempland, of 1 acre 0R 32P let at £8 p.a. applied to parochial relief

Poors Allotment:

- 1840 5 pieces marshland (10 acres 2R 34P) and allotment of 15 acres 2R 38P (How Heath) let at £60 p.a. applied to purchase of coals of poor

Ayton's Charity:

- 1840 by will of Elizabeth Ayton: 10s. p.a. for distribution to poor widows

The School:

1726 by will of Rev. Gregory Clarke: for provision of school and education of poor children

22. Other institutions:

1803 Friendly Society listed (31 members)

1891 Police officer listed

Guild of St. Cross (1472)

Town house recorded (17th cent.)

23. Recreation:

1844 2 beerhouses, THE PLOUGH public house

1891 THE PLOUGH public house, 2 beerhouses

1912 THE PLOUGH INN public house, 2 beer retailers

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Reputedly the village of "Blunderstone" mentioned in David Copperfield by Charles Dickens refers to the parish

Blundestone House built by Sir John Soame (1785/86) for Nathaneil Rix

Blundestone Prison built (1962/63)

Parish contains two area of water, former decoys

Dispute occurred over 16/17 acres water known as Blundestone Great Water/common fen/common water and 3 acres known as Hempwater Green (17th cent.) Inhabitants had fished waters, made their hemp wet and dried it on the green, then fed it to the cattle

Archaeological Sites

Med. moated site (CRN 1483)

Un. Field system/enclosure (CRN 1485/1783)

Ring ditch (CRN 1486, 1741, 3462, 3588)

Un. Cropmark (CRN 1739)

Cropmark/building/trackway/searchlight battery (CRN 1740)

Causewayed ring ditch (CRN 3587)

Stray finds: Sax. Bronze box (CRN 1056)

Med. artefacts (CRN 1058)

Rom. Artefacts (CRN 7521)

Neo. Flint axe (CRN 1489)

Worked flint (CRN 1742)

Scatter finds: Med. Pottery (CRN 1057)

Neo. Worked flint (CRN 1484, 1487)

B.A. arrowhead (CRN 1488)