

1. Parish: Corton

Meaning: Kari's homestead/village (Ekwall)

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

Deanery: Lothingland

Union: Mutford and Lothingland

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

Other administrative details:

Civil boundary change (1934), part transferred to Lowestoft, loses part to Norfolk, united to Hopton on Sea (transferred to Norfolk 1974)
Mutford and Lothingland Petty Sessional Division
Lowestoft County Court District

3. Area: 1,144 acres land, 53 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		2 cobs, 5 cattle, 12 pigs, 50 sheep, wood for 3 pigs
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, beans, roots
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. Enclosure:

1813 236 acres enclosed under Private Act of Lands 1809

7. Settlement:

1971 Small compact development , church centrally situated.
Railway crosses parish NW-SE. Holiday accommodation occupies sea frontage. Few scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 29, 1801 – 50, 1851 – 111, 1871 – 129,
1901 – 142, 1951 – 224, 1981 – 433

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Hopton on Sea, Blundeston and Lowestoft
Rail: 1891 3 miles Lowestoft station: Norwich – Yarmouth –
Lowestoft line, opened (1844), still operative.
Yarmouth – Lowestoft line opened (1903), closed for
goods (1967), closed for passengers (1970).
Ipswich – Lowestoft line opened (1859), still operative.

9. Population:

1086 — 22 recorded (includes Domesday vill of Newton)
1327 — 18 taxpayers paid £2. 2s. 6d.
1524 — 26 taxpayers paid £2. 18s. 2d.
1603 — 123 adults
1674 — 45 households
1676 — Not recorded
1801 — 242 inhabitants
1831 — 410 inhabitants
1851 — 559 inhabitants
1871 — 594 inhabitants
1901 — 618 inhabitants
1931 — 646 inhabitants
1951 — 646 inhabitants
1971 — 785 inhabitants
1981 — 1,086 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Vicarage (1831) Discharged Vicarage (1891)

1254 Valued £18. 13s. 4d.
1291 Valued £20
1535 Valued £10. Impropriation granted to Charles Brandon
1831 Curate, stipend £46 p.a. No glebe house, gross income
£121 p.a.
Incumbent also holds Vicarage of Gunton and Rectory of
Fishley, Norfolk
Valued £119 (1835)
Parsonage house built (1841)
Tithes commuted for £405 (rectorial) and £120 (vicarial)
(1839)

1912 Nett value £200 p.a. 27 acres glebe

Patrons: Gelfridus de Corton (1299), John de Corton (1332), Abbot and Convent of Leiston (1376-1530), Charles, Duke of Suffolk (1537), The King (1597-1837), Lord Chancellor (1891-)

11. Church **St. Bartholomew**
(Chancel, nave, S. porch, W. tower)

1370 Main structure
1870 Restoration
1883 Restoration
1891 Restoration
20th cent. Restorations
Note: part ruinous (retains only 1/3 of original nave,
tower open to the sky, S. porch in ruins) (1937)

Seats: 205 (1912)

St. Mary's (Newton)

14th cent. Mention occurs in deeds
1526 Last mentioned
Remains of church/chapel said to be visible at an area
called "The Gate" (circa 1790)
Lost to the sea

12. Nonconformity etc:

1644 John Utting ejected by Suffolk Committee for Scandalous
Ministers for being a notorious drunkard
Free Methodist chapel built (1873)

13. Manorial:

1313 Geoffrey de Corton owns
1360 John de Herling owns
1515 Sir Edward Jerningham died seised (linked to Ashby,
Gorleston, Lound and Mutford)
Circa 1587 John Wentwotrth owns (linked to Ashby, Belton, Bradwell,
Lound, Somerleyton and Flixton)
1672 Admiral Sir Thomas Allin owns (linked to Ashby, Belton,
Blundeston, Bradwell, Carlton Colville, Flixton,
Somerleyton, Mutford, Lound, Gorleston and Fritton)
Circa 1843 Lord S.G. Osborne owns (linked to Ashby, Belton,
Blundeston, Bradwell, Carlton Colville, Flixton,
Somerleyton, Mutford, Lound and Gorleston)
1844 Samuel Morton Peto owns (linked to Ashby, Belton,
Blundeston, Bradwell, Carlton Colville, Flixton,
Somerleyton, Rushmere, Mutford, Lound and Gorleston)
1885 Richard Henry Reeve owns (linked to Ashby, Belton,
Blundeston, Bradwell, Carlton Colville, Flixton, Rushmere,

Pakefield, Mutford, Lound, Kirkley, Gorleston and Gisleham)

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844	£1,594 rental value
1891	£2,259 rateable value
1912	£2,586 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1891	Land sub-divided
1912	R.J. Colman and F. Ringer, principle owners

17. Resident gentry:

1844	H.T. Birkett
1891	J.J. Colman MP JP
1912	R.J. Colman DL JP

18. Occupations:

1500-1549	1 yeoman
1550-1599	2 yeomen, 2 husbandmen, 1 mariner
1600-1649	2 yeomen, 1 thatcher, 6 husbandmen, 1 carpenter, 2 labourers
1650-1699	7 yeomen, 1 husbandmen, 1 fisherman, 2 mariners, 1 inn holder
1831	54 in agriculture, 12 in retail trade, 31 in labouring, 3 in domestic service
1844	2 blacksmiths, curate, schoolmistress, corn miller, beerhouse keeper, shopkeeper/victualler, boot/shoemaker, 5 farmers
1912	Sub-postmaster, schoolmaster, station master, 9 apartment keepers, brickworks, builder, farm bailiff, carter, shopkeeper, 3 farmers, blacksmith, market gardener, publican estate carpenter, coffee tavern owner

19. Education:

1818	1 day school (40 attend) children from Gunton also attend
1833	1 daily school (85 attend)
	Small school for poor supported by vicar (1844)
	Boarding academy recorded (1844)
	National school has accommodation for 100 (1891)
	Public Elementary school rebuilt (1896), old school sold.
	Average attendance (1912) 122

20. Poor relief:

1776	£34. 18s. 7d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£43. 8s. 5d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£109. 1s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£96. 1s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£78. 12s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£95. 3s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Brigg's Charity:

1718 bequest of Robert Briggs: £1 p.a. applied to purchase of bread for poor

Town Pightle:

1840 1 acre let at £1. 11s. 6d. applied to parish clerk's salary

Poors Allotment:

1840 11 acres 2R 17P let at 25s. per acre applied to purchase of coals for the poor

22. Other institutions:

1674 Almshouse – 8 inmates
Guild of St. Bartholomew (no date)

1803 Friendly Society (31 members)
Coastguard Station: compliment of 4 men (1891)
Reading Room (The Village Room) built (1890) by J.J. Colman
Board of Trade station containing life-saving rocket apparatus (1912)

23. Recreation:

1650-1699 Innkeeper recorded

1844 Beerhouse, THE WHITE HORSE public house
Coffee Room built (1882) by J.J. Colman

1891 THE WHITE HORSE public house

1912 THE WHITE HORSE public house and THE ANCHOR coffee tavern
Corton Gardens open to public with refreshment pavilions (1922). Contained 4 miles of paths , lawns, ornamental lakes and cliff walks

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Believed once to have been much larger development including Newton Green, the majority of which has been lost to the sea. Stone supported cross known as Newton Cross only remained (1844), submerged by (1891).

The green was washed away (1873)

Corton Sands: hazardous to shipping under protection of Lowestoft lighthouses (1912)

Roman signal station (circa 4th century) formed shore defences

'Materials towards a history of Corton, Suffolk'. East Anglian Notes and Queries Vol. IV p.151/152 and 193-195

'The Clyffe': large house built in Elizabethan style

Corton lightship est. (1862)

Archaeological Sites

Un. Rectangular enclosure/trackway (CRN 1578)

DMV (CRN 1584)

Rom. Signal station (CRN 1756)

Field system/trackway (CRN 3463)

Rectilinear enclosure (CRN 3464)

Field system (CRN 3469)

Ring ditch (CRN 3470, 3471)

Stray finds: B.A. arrowhead (CRN 7528)

Stone implement (CRN 1743)

Palstave (CRN 1755)

I.A. pottery (CRN 1585)

Un. Building/searchlight battery (CRN 1744)

Neo. Flint axe (CRN 1745, 1753)

Flint knife (CRN 1751)

Spearhead (CRN 1752)

Flint sickle (CRN 1754)

Rom. Pottery (CRN 1746)

Coin (CRN 1748)

Un. Metalwork (CRN 1750)

Pal. Worked flint (CRN 1750)

Med. coin (CRN 1757)

Scatter finds: Neo. Worked flint (CRN 1579, 1581, 1747)

Rom. Pottery (CRN 1580, 1582)

I.A. pottery (CRN 7529)

Sax. Pottery (CRN 1583)