

# 1. Parish : Culford (Includes hamlet of Chimney Mills)

**Meaning:** Cula's ford. Meaning of Chimney Mills not known

2. **Hundred:** Blackbourn

**Deanery:** Blackbourn (–1884), Thingoe (1884–)  
Chimney Mills: ex–parochial

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

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

## Other administrative details:

Civil boundary change (gains Chimney Mills) 1897  
Thingoe and Thedwastre Petty Sessional Division  
Bury St Edmunds County Court District

Chimney Mills: Formerly part of Culford and West Stow (–1875), independent parish (1876–1897), annexed to Culford (1897–)

3. **Area:** 2,202 acres land, 27 acres of water (1912)

4. **Soils:**

**Mixed:**

- a. Deep well drained fine loam over clay, coarse loam over clay and fine loam soils some with calcareous clay subsoils
- b. Deep peat soils. Risk wind erosion
- c. Deep permeable sand and peat soils affected by ground water. Risk of winter flooding and wind erosion near river.

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		14 acres meadow, 1 cattle, 2 pigs, 85 sheep
1283		204 quarters to crops (1,632 bushels), 26 head horses, 67 cattle, 599 sheep*
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Wood-pasture region, mainly pasture, engaged in rearing and dairying with some pig-keeping 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 crops and management techniques including summer fallow in preparation for corn and rotation of turnip, barley, clover, wheat on lighter lands
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, rye, barley, oats. Chimney Mills: 1 mill
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:

## 7. Settlement:

1958 Small compact development skirting the edge of Culford Park, church situated within the park. The growth of the Park probably influenced settlement in this area. Few scattered farms.

Chimney Mills: extremely small area containing only 1 mill and 1 farm situated near to Flempton Bridge on western parish boundary

**Note:** 9 parish boundaries converge at site of shrunken mere at Rymer Point (NE of Culford parish), creating a radial effect.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 10, 1801 – 38, 1851 – 65, 1871 – 71,  
1901 – 70, 1951 – 89, 1981 – 150  
Chimney Mills: 1850 – 1

## 8. Communications:

**Roads:** To West Stow, Fornham St. Martin, Ingham, Wordwell and Flempton  
1891 Carrier to Bury St. Edmunds on Wednesday and Saturday  
1912 Carrier to Bury St. Edmunds daily

**Rail:** 1891 1½ miles Ingham station: Bury St Edmunds –Thetford line opened 1876 closed for passengers 1953, closed for goods 1960.

**Water:** River Lark: Lark Navigation Scheme 1889–1901

## 9. Population:

1086 – 32 recorded  
1327 – 15 taxpayers paid £1 8s.  
1524 – 17 taxpayers paid £0 19s.  
1603 – 40 adults

1662 – 9 householders listed\*  
 1674 – 11 households  
 1676 – 50 adults  
 1801 – 244 inhabitants  
 1831 – 327 inhabitants  
 1851 – 348 inhabitants  
 1871 – 298 inhabitants  
 1901 – 313 inhabitants  
 1931 – 286 inhabitants  
 1951 – 289 inhabitants  
 1971 – 378 inhabitants  
 1981 – 430 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 (consolidated with Ingham and Timworth)  
1831 Discharged Rectory 1844 Rectory 1912**

1254 Valued £6.  
 Portion of Keeper of Hospital of St. Edmunds 10s.  
 Portion of Manorial residence of St Edmunds in  
 Hinderclay £10  
 Portion of the same in Stanton £4 £20 10s.

1291 Valued £8.  
 1341 Valued £6 19s. 2d.  
 1535 Valued £8.  
 1674 Parsonage house has 5 hearths  
 1831 1 curate, glebe house, stipend £60 p.a. Joint gross  
 income £549 p.a.  
 1835 Joint value estimated at £549 p.a.  
 Rectorial tithes commuted for £223  
 1864 Parsonage house built  
 1912 Joint nett value £531 p.a. 57 acres glebe and residence

**Patrons:** Sir Nicholas Bacon (1603), R.B. de Beauvoir (1831), Rev. E.R.  
 Benyon (1844), R.B. Berens (1891)

**11. Church St. Mary (dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel in  
 will of 1535)**  
 (Chancel, nave, N. aisle, S. porch, vestry, W. tower)

14<sup>th</sup> cent. Original structure, tower partly medieval  
 1856–65 Almost entirely rebuilt. Consecrated by Bishop of Ely  
 1865  
 1908 N. aisle added

**Seats:** 150 free (1873)

**Note:** Church of St. Mary stands in grounds of Culford Hall

### St. Peter

1860/63 Church built at Culford Heath  
1976 Listed as redundant  
1980 Bought by Dr. Leslaw Kwasny, who planned to turn it into a Polish religious and cultural centre

#### **12. Nonconformity etc:**

1676 8 nonconformists  
1834 1 house set aside for worship

#### **13. Manorial:**

1066/1086 Manor of 1 carucate belonging to Abbot of St. Edmunds  
1541 Christopher Coote owns  
1586 Sir Nicholas Bacon owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)  
1660's Marquis of Cornwallis owns (linked to Braiseworth, Brome, Palgrave, Thrandeston, Cavenham, Thelnetham, West Stow, Wordwell and Ingham)  
1824 Richard Benyon de Beauvoir owns (linked to Timworth, Ingham and West Stow)  
1889 Earl Cadogan owns (linked to Ingham and Wordwell)

#### **Sub-Manors:**

##### **East Hall al Syffrewats**

1321 Richard Syffrewast owns  
1393 William Galyon owns  
1429 John Coote owns later becoming absorbed by main manor prior to  
1586 Nicholas Bacon

#### **14. Markets/Fairs**

#### **15. Real property:**

1844 Culford: £1,674 rental value  
Chimney Mills: recorded with West Stow  
1891 Culford: £1,364 rateable value  
Chimney Mills: £40 rateable value  
1912 Culford: £1,621 rateable value  
Chimney Mills: not recorded

#### **16. Land ownership:**

1844 Rev. E.R. Benyon, principal owner of both Culford and Chimney Mills

1891/1912 Earl Cadogan, sole owner of both Culford and Chimney Mills

**17. Resident gentry:**

1674 Lord Cornwallis has house with 25 hearths  
Duke of York has house with 29 hearths  
1844 Rev. E.R. Benyon MA  
1891 Earl Cadogan and Rev. J.J. Roumieu MA  
1912 Rt. Hon. Earl Cadogan

**18. Occupations:**

1500–1549 1 husbandman  
1550–1599 1 yeoman, 2 husbandmen, 1 herdsman  
1600–1649 3 yeomen, 3 husbandmen. 2 blacksmiths  
1650–1699 3 yeomen, 1 husbandman, 1 clerk, 1 shepherd  
1831 78 in agriculture, 27 in retail trade, 3 in labouring, 7 in domestic service  
1844 Farm steward, carpenter, gardener, farmer, shoe maker, land agent  
1891 Brick and tile works and timber yard recorded  
1912 Sub-postmaster, police officer, 2 schoolmistresses, carrier, clerk of works to Earl Cadogan, head gardener, house steward, land agent, district nurse, head gamekeeper, farm bailiff  
Chimney Mills: water miller

**19. Education:**

1818 1 school (20 places paid for by Marquis Cornwallis)  
1833 2 daily schools (67–77 attend)  
1864 School built  
1876 New school built at Culford Heath supported by Earl Cadogan, average attendance 1912 34  
1896 Public Elementary school built, average attendance 1912 43

**Culford School:**

Established 1935 housing East Anglian School for Boys on their move from Bury St. Edmunds  
1965 New wing added  
1981 Centenary marked by visit of Duke of Gloucester  
'Culford School, the first Hundred Years' by F.E. Watson  
'Culford School 1881–1951'  
'Culford School and East Anglian School, towards co-education', by C. Storey and W. Tuck. East Anglian Magazine Vol.30 p.222.

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£28 11s. 6d.
1803	£225 12s. 10d.
1818	£294 16s.
1830	£308 9s.
1832	£278 17s.
1834	£291 16s.

**21. Charities:**

**22. Other institutions:**

1803	House of Industry listed (27 children in school of industry)
1891	Police constable listed
1892	Institute and Reading Room built by Earl Cadogan
1914/18	Culford Mens Club
c.1930's	Village hall built

**23. Recreation:**

1912	Cricket Club
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**24. Personal:**

1<sup>st</sup> Marquis Cornwallis – short biography in 'Remarkable Characters of Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk' 1820  
'Private Correspondence of Jane, Lady Cornwallis 1613–1644' (1842)

**25. Other information:**

Enclosed parish (no dates).

Culford Hall: Built 1591 by Sir Nicholas Bacon. Completely rebuilt on same site 1790–96 for 1<sup>st</sup> Marquis Cornwallis, Doric Portico added 1806–8, Lodges built 1803, altered 1819, altered and enlarged by Earl Cadogan c.1900, converted to school 1935.

Plan of Culford Park by Humphrey Repton 1791–2 held at Culford School.

Published registers 1560–1778.

Icehouse field mentioned in Deed 1715 possible memory of former site of icehouse.

Community of Culford Heath: live in isolation only means of communication being along tracks. Dispute occurred re public rights of way 1938.

'Royal Visitors to Culford Hall', by C. Storey. East Anglian Magazine Vol.40 p.460.

'Culford Hall, Catalogue of Sale' 1934.

'Past and Present, the Three Villages of Culford, Ingham and Timworth', by J.J. Roumieu 1892.

'A Suffolk Hundred in 1283', by E. Powell 1910. Concentrates on Blackbourn Hundred. Gives land usage, livestock and the taxes paid.

Chimney Mills: formerly know as Hardles Mill 1700.