

1. Parish : Hinderclay

Meaning: Tongue of land where elders grew/tongue of land in a river fork

2. **Hundred:** Blackbourn

Deanery: Blackburne (-1972), Ixworth(1972-)

Union: Stow

RDC/UDC: (W. Suffolk) Thedwastre RD (-1974), Mid Suffolk DC (1974-)

Other administrative details:

Blackbourn Petty Sessional Division
Eye County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,488 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed:

- a. Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay
- b. Deep fine loam soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging. Some fine/coarse loams over clay. Some deep well drained coarse loam over clay, fine loam and sandy soils

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		8 acres meadow, wood for 60 pigs, 3 cobs, 8 cattle, 20 pigs, 60 sheep
1283		473 quarters to crops (3,784 bushels), 57 head horse, 177 cattle 100 pigs, 232 sheep*
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Wood-pasture region, mainly pasture, meadow, engaged in rearing and dairying with some pig keeping, horse breeding and poultry. Crops mainly barley with some wheat, rye, oats, peas, vetches, hops and occasionally hemp.
1818	Marshall:	Course of crops varies usually including summer fallow in preparation for corn products
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, oats, beans, peas, turnips
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:

1819 163 acres enclosed under Private Act of Lands 1815

7. Settlement:

1958 Well spaced development in southern sector of parish. Church and Hall situated slightly to east of main settlement. Secondary settlement at Thorpe Street. Hinderclay Fen and the Little Ouse River form natural boundary with Norfolk and to the North. Few scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 25, 1801 – 56, 1851 – 84, 1871 – 57, 1901 – 62, 1951 – 61, 1981 – 83

8. Communications:

Roads: To Wattisfield, Rickinghall and Thelnetham
1891 Carrier to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday and Saturday
1912 Carrier to Diss on Friday

Water: Little Ouse River: Tributary of Great Ouse River made navigable by Acts designed to improve navigation 1670 although there is some evidence to suggest that the river was used for trade purposes earlier than this. Declined due to rail transport and general silting of the river c.1850's

9. Population:

1086 – 36 recorded
1327 – 16 taxpayers paid £1 3s. 3d.
1524 – 31 taxpayers paid £1 17s. 4d.
1603 – Not recorded
1662 – 32 householders paid £4 3s.
9 poor persons paid 12s.*
1674 – 29 households
1676 – 155 adults
1801 – 335 inhabitants
1831 – 405 inhabitants
1851 – 394 inhabitants
1871 – 324 inhabitants
1901 – 261 inhabitants
1931 – 204 inhabitants
1951 – 191 inhabitants
1971 – 215 inhabitants
1981 – 251 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 (1831), Discharged Rectory (1844), Rectory (1912)

1254 Valued £6 13s. 4d.
 Portion of Keeper of St. Edmunds £1 £7 13s. 4d.

1291 Valued £10
 Portion of Almoner of St. Edmunds £1 6s. 8d. £11 6s. 8d.

1341 Valued £12 6s. 8d.

1535 Valued £9 19s. 4d.

1662 Parsonage has 6 hearths

1831 1 curate, stipend £100 p.a. Glebe house. Gross income £408 p.a. Incumbent also holds Rectory of Waxham with Vicarage of Palling and Rectory of Overstrand, Norfolk

1843 Tithes commuted for £400 p.a.

1887 Rent charge of £410 in lieu of tithes. 25 acres glebe, gross income £26. 10s.

1891 28 acres 2R 8P glebe

1912 Nett value £211 p.a. 26 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: G. St.Vincent Wilson (1831), G. Holt Wilson (1891)

11. Church St. Mary
 (Chancel, nave, S. aisle, wooden S. porch, W. tower)

1086 Church plus 1 acre free land in alms, 2 ploughs

13th cent. Arcade of 4 bays, N. doorway 12th cent.

14th cent. Main structure

15th cent. Tower, nave and S. aisle

1848/1900 Restorations
 Retains its 18th cent. 'Gotch' or bell-ringers beer pitcher (holds 2 gallons)

Seats: 90 appropriated, 160 free (1873)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1593 1 person negligent in attending church

1676 2 nonconformists
 Wesleyan chapel (no dates)

1912 Primitive Methodist chapel (no dates)

13. Manorial:

1066/1086 Manor of 4 carucates belonging to the Abbot of St. Edmunds

1540 Edward North owns (linked to Lakenheath, Benacre and Cowlinge)

1545 Sir Nicholas Bacon owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)

c.1685 Sit John Holt owns and thence through the Holt-Wilson family of Redgrave Hall (Linked to Wangford, Brandon, Redgrave and Walsham le Willows)

Sub-Manors:

Bartford Soham Hall

1552 Thomas Smith said to have died seised. No further information known

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844 £1,803 rental value
1891 £1,606 rateable value
1912 £1,110 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844/1891 Land sub-divided
1891/1912 G.H. Wilson, principal owner

17. Resident gentry:

1844 Rev. T. Wilson
1891 Rev. W.W, Hawkins MA

18. Occupations:

1500–1549 1 clerk
1550–1599 1 yeoman, 4 husbandmen, 1 parson
1600–1649 12 yeomen, 2 husbandmen 1 weaver, 1 ploughwright
1650–1699 10 yeomen, 5 linen weavers, 1 reed maker, 1 weaver, 1 clerk
1831 70 in agriculture, 9 in retail trade, 1 professional, 8 in domestic service, 17 others
1844 Tailor, 2 carpenters, land agent, bricklayer, corn miller, victualler, 14 farmers, 5 shoemakers
1912 Sub-postmaster, schoolmistress, 8 farmers, miller, 2 shopkeepers, 2 publicans, carrier

19. Education:

1844 Small school supported by rector.
1872 National school built to accommodate 60+, average attendance 1912 36

20. Poor relief:

1776	£93 4s. 1d.
1803	£328 17s. 3d.
1818	£676 5s.
1830	£437 3s.
1832	£454 10s.
1834	£426 18s.

21. Charities:

Town Estate:

1840	8 acres let at £25 p.a. applied to usage, in payment of churchwardens office
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22. Other institutions:

1505	Guild of St. Peter
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23. Recreation:

1844	The Six Bells public house
1891	The Bells public house, 1 beerhouse
1912	The Crown and the Six Bells public houses

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

St. Mary's Well: perennial spring near to Thelnetham church (but within Hinderclay parish) – said to possess curative properties for healing weak eyes.

Village Hall: opened 1980.