

# 1. Parish: Hundon

**Meaning:** Huna's Denu or valley

2. **Hundred:** Risbridge

**Deanery:** Clare

**Union:** Risbridge

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

## Other administrative details:

Civil boundary change 1885  
Ecclesiastical boundary change 1931  
Risbridge Petty Sessional Division  
Haverhill County Court District

3. **Area:** 4,551 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		50 acres meadow, wood for 160 pigs, 1 mill, 6 cobs, 31 cattle, 160 pigs, 530 sheep, 17 beehives
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 as preparation for corn products
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, beans, mangolds
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

'Babel and Cock greens' enclosed – noted in Directory of 1912 but unfound in other sources

7. **Settlement:**

1958 Small compact development around South Street and Church Lane Church situated slightly to east although remaining part of main settlement. Secondary settlements at Brockley Green, Babel Green, Chimney Street and Steeplechase Terrace.

Scattered farms.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 72, 1801 – 160, 1851 – 259, 1871 – 257,  
1901 – 182, 1951 – 171, 1981 – 385

## 8. Communications:

**Road:** To Clare, Kedington, Barnadiston, Denston and Stradishall. Former road to Stradishall terminated by airfield.  
1844 Carrier to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday  
1891 Carrier to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday and Saturday

**Rail:** 1891 3½ miles Clare station: Cambridge–Sudbury line opened 1865, closed for goods 1966, became unmanned halt, closed for passengers 1967

## 9. Population:

1086 – 100 recorded  
1327 – 28 taxpayers paid £2 18s. 6¾d.  
1524 – 47 taxpayers paid £3 0s. 1d.  
1603 – 400 adults  
1674 – 137 households  
1676 – 356 adults  
1801 – 824 inhabitants  
1831 – 1,121 inhabitants  
1851 – 1,218 inhabitants  
1871 – 1,116 inhabitants  
1901 – 741 inhabitants  
1931 – 592 inhabitants  
1951 – 579 inhabitants  
1971 – 663 inhabitants  
1981 – 1,421 inhabitants

## 10. Benefice: Vicarage 1831, Discharged Vicarage 1844

1254 Valued £10 0s. 0d.  
Portion of Prior of Stoke (by Clare) £6 13s. 4d. £16 13s. 4d.

1291 Valued at £9 6s. 8d.  
Portion of Prior of Stoke £4 0s. 0d. £13 6s. 8d.

1535 Valued £7 13s. 4d.

1831 1 curate, stipend £80 p.a. Glebe house. Gross income £206 p.a.  
Incumbent also holds Vicarage of Mears Abbey, Northants and Perpetual Curacy of St Michael's-on-the-Mount, Lincs.  
Valued £201 0s. 0d. 1835  
Great tithes commuted for £685 10s. 0d. to the vicar  
£290 to the impropiator and £685 5s. 10d. to Jesus College, Cambridge 1887

1912 Nett value £170 p.a. + 3 acres of glebe and residence

**Patrons:** The King (1603), Jesus College, Cambridge (1831)

**11. Church****All Saints**

	(Chancel, nave, aisles, chapel, W. tower)
1086	Church + ½ carucate free land Church + 4½ acres
1490	New aisle to be built
14 <sup>th</sup> /15 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Main structure including tower
1643	Puritanical Vandals (William Dowsing) destroyed 30 superstitious pictures, took down 3 popish inscriptions and ordered steps levelled.
1888	Partial restoration
1914	Roof and interior woodwork destroyed by fire
	Seats: 200 appropriated, 330 free (1873)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

1611	2 persons not attending church
1662	Minister ejected
1819–1846	7 houses set aside for worship (1851 – house set aside specifically for worship of Primitive Methodists)
1846	Independent/Congregational chapel built, gallery and vestry added 1860 seats 340. 'History of Hundon Congregational Chapel', by J. Duncan (1961–69)

**13. Manorial:**

1066.	Manor of 25 carucates 20 acres held by Withgar
1086 –15 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Manor of 25 carucates belonging to Richard, son of Count Gilbert De Clare family owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk.)
1540	Anne of Cleves owns (linked to Bacton, Cotton, Occold, Thwaite, Gt. Finborough, Stratford St. Mary and Gt. Wrattling)
1549	John Cheke owns (linked to Debenham, Stonham Parva, Rattlesden, Clare and Stradishall)
1556	Duchy of Lancaster owns
1603	John Erskine owns (Linked to Stradishall)
1611	Sold to the King
1756	John Vernon owns (Linked to Stradishall)

**Sub-Manors****Purowe; formerly called Gorreles / Penowe Hall**

13 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Gorel/Gorell family owns
15 <sup>th</sup> cent.	William Coggeshall owns (possibly linked to Hawkedon – see Cokkeshall)
16 <sup>th</sup> /17 <sup>th</sup> cent.	John Smith owns (linked to Rattlesden, Denston and Haverhill)

**Hagden Hall**

Reputed manor, part of lands of College of Stoke by Clare and granted to Sir John Cheke 1548 (absorbed by main manor)

**14. Markets/Fairs**

1759	Fair held on Holy Thursday for cattle
1844	Fair for pedlery held on Holy Thursday (not mentioned after this date)

**15. Real property:**

1844	£5,294 rental value
1891	£3,868 rateable value
1912	£3,595 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844	Sir Robert Harland owns half the parish. Remainder sub-divided
1891/1912	Land sub-divided

**17. Resident gentry:**

1912	Rev. H.F Gipps MA
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**18. Occupations:**

1500 – 1549	Husbandman yeoman, butcher, clerk
1550 – 1599	9 husbandmen, 2 weavers, 8 yeomen, 1 shoemaker, 1 labourer, 1 petty chapman (retail dealer), 2 wheelwrights, 1 spinster, 1 carpenter, 1 ploughwright, 1 vicar.
1600 – 1649	6 husbandmen, 1 weaver, 23 yeomen, 2 bricklayers, 1 wheelwright. 4 carpenters, 3 tailors, 2 millers, 1 victualler, 1 beer brewer, 1 chandler
1650 – 1699	7 husbandmen, 28 yeoman, 1 labourer, 1 bricklayer, 2 spinsters, 3 carpenters, 3 tailors, 3 maltsters, 1 miller, 1 sawyer, 1 shopkeeper, 1 butcher, 1 draper, 1 grocer
1831	199 in agriculture, 59 in retail trade, 2 professionals, 4 in labouring, 18 in domestic service, 16 others
1844	Tailor, 4 victuallers, cattle dealer, butcher, carpenter, glover, schoolmaster, collar/harness maker, 2 beerhouses, 2 bakers, 3 blacksmiths, 5 boot/shoemakers, 2 bricklayers, 2 corn millers, 25 farmers, 6 shopkeepers, 2 wheelwrights, carrier
1912	Sub-postmistress, school mistress, 4 publicans, 2 shopkeepers, 12 farmers, horse dealer, cattle dealer, district nurse, 5 beer retailers, grocer, 2 farm bailiffs, blacksmith, butcher, farrier, boot/shoemaker, harness maker

**19. Education:**

1818	1 endowed school (founded 1737 by J. Vernon) – 16 educated free. 36 attend in 1833 (16 free), approximately 47 attend 1867 1 Sunday school (16 attend)
1833	2 infant schools (14 attend), 1 Sunday school (51 attend)
1844	Schoolmaster listed (teaches children in endowed school)
1859	Endowed school enlarged

1873	School board formed
1875	School built for 200 children. Public Elementary school (incorporates old Free school) built, average attendance 1912 150

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£444 13s. 0d.
1803	£762 1s. 4d.
1818	£1,605 16s. 0d.
1830	£1,374 16s. 0d.
1832	£1,204 3s. 0d.
1834	£944 10s. 0d.

**21. Charities:**

**Charity Estate**

1840	Message used as workhouse 2 tenements (1) almshouse, (2) school 113 acres let at £120 p.a. Rents applied to church repairs and relief of the poor.
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**Rich's Charity**

1690	By will of William Rich: Messuage and appurtenances in Wood Street, Hundon charged with payment of 40s. p.a. in bread to the poor, 20s. at Hallowmas (Nov 1) and 20s at Candlemas (Feb 2)
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**Vernon's Charity**

1737	by deed of James Vernon: Erection of work houses in Hundon, Wickhambrook and Stradishall £10 p.a. to education of 16 poor children (building acquired for use as school premises near to church in 1753) £32 p.a. to maintenance of monument house and Vernon family monument near parish church.
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**22. Other institutions:**

1458	Guild of Holy Trinity
1490	Guild of Jesus
c.1737	Workhouse built from bequest of James Vernon. 20 inmates 1776
1945–1959	W.I. records in RO

**23. Recreation:**

1600–1649	1 victualler and 1 beer brewer recorded
1844–1912	The Red Lion, The Cock Inn, The Rose and Crown and The Plough Inn public houses
1844	2 beerhouses
1891	6 beerhouses
1912	5 beer retailers

1980 Hundon Singers formed. Village renowned for its musical talents 1982

**24. Personal:**

**25. Other information:**

1314 Med. park mentioned.

1509 3 parks mentioned.

1765 Map of Hundon and Vernon Estate in existence.

1980 'A Story of what I remember', by E. Pledger, (native of Hundon).

'Copper tanged dagger from Hundon', by N. Moore, PSIA Vol. 32, p.274.

1979 'Destruction of Hundon church', (with photographs) Suffolk Fair (March 1979) p.28.

'The Thatchers': 15<sup>th</sup> cent. building with remains of King post roof. Wall paintings over fireplace.