

1. Parish : Norton

Meaning: Northern homestead/village or homestead/village north of another

2. **Hundred:** Blackbourn

Deanery: Blackburne (–1884), Thedwastre (1884–1972), Lavenham (1972–)

Union: Stow

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

Other administrative details:

Blackbourn Petty Sessional Division
Bury St Edmunds County Court District

3. **Area:** 2,454 acres of land, 6 acres water (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed:

- a. Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion
- b. Stoneless mainly calcareous clay soils affected by groundwater. Risk of flooding by river.

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		Wood for 150 pigs, 10 acres meadow, 2 cobs, 10 cattle. 50 pigs, 100 sheep, 30 goats
1283		391 quarters to crops (3,128 bushels), 50 head horse, 195 cattle 122 pigs, 573 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:	Barley, wheat, 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:

1814 250 acres in enclosed under Private Acts of Lands 1811

7. Settlement:

1978/81 Relatively large development spaced generally along length of Ixworth Road, although compactly settled at crossroads where The Street and Heath Road meet the main road. Separate settlements at Little Green, Prospect Road and Stanton Street. Church situated separately to east of main development on high ground. River Blackbourn flows N–S forming natural parish boundary for part of its length. Associated wet lands restrict development in this area (western sector of parish). Scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 57, 1801 – 110, 1851 – 192, 1871 – 185, 1901 – 168, 1951 – 209, 1981 – 264

8. Communications:

Roads: A1088 Ixworth Road (former line of Roman Road – possibly linked with same in Woolpit parish). Roads to Stowlangtoft, Tostock, Thurston, Hunston and Great Ashfield
1891: Carrier to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday and Saturday
1912: 2 carriers to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday and Saturday

Rail: 1891 2½ miles Elmswell Station: Bury St Edmunds–Cambridge line opened 1846, closed for goods 1964, became unmanned halt 1967

Water: River Blackbourn

9. Population:

1086 – 71 recorded
1327 – 23 taxpayers paid £2 10s.
1524 – 46 taxpayers paid £9 7s. 2d.
1603 – 180 adults
1662 – 63 households paid £9 14s.*
1674 – 73 households
1676 – 212 adults
1801 – 533 inhabitants
1831 – 802 inhabitants
1851 – 927 inhabitants

1871 – 886 inhabitants
 1901 – 742 inhabitants
 1931 – 759 inhabitants
 1951 – 752 inhabitants
 1971 – 749 inhabitants
 1981 – 772 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

1254 Valued £13 6s. 8d.
 1291 Valued £14 13s. 4d.
 1341 Valued £16 2s.
 1535 Valued £14 3s. 9½d.
 1831 1 curate, stipend £121. p.a. Glebe house. Gross income
 £490 p.a.
 1835 Valued £458
 1839 Modus of £611 p.a. in lieu of tithes
 1891 21 acres glebe and rectory house
 1912 Nett value £320 p.a. 21 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: Sir Robert Asshilde (1603), Peterhouse, Cambridge (1831),
 St. Peters College, Cambridge (1873 –)

11. Church St. Andrew

(Chancel, vestry, nave, aisles, S. porch, W. tower)

1086 Church plus 30 acres land
 c.1300 Chancel
 early 14th cent. N. aisle
 1442 Money left for completion of tower
 15th cent. Main structure
 1881/1898 Restorations

Seats: 165 appropriated, 234 free (1873)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1676 8 nonconformists
 1705–1825 5 houses set aside for worship
 1825/1835 Chapels built
 1834 Baptist chapel built by Mr. S. Hustler
 No date Wesleyan chapel built
 1983 Salvation Army corps and hall in existence

13. Manorial:

1066	Manor of 4 carucates held by Edith, a free woman on lease from the Abbot of St. Edmunds
1086	Manor of 4 carucates belonging to the King
1316	John de Pakenham owns
c.1434	Robert de Berdewell owns (linked to Tostock)
c.1459	Sir Robert Darcy owns. There is some confusion around this date because the manor is also described as part of the possessions of the Priory of Ixworth.
1811	Rev. Henry Patteson owns
1817	Robert Clarke owns
1821	Thomas Woodward owns
1885	James Sparke owns

Sub-Manors:

Harding:

1542	Edward Bardekell owns
1578	William Brooks owns
c.1648	John Fiske owns

Little Haugh:

12 th cent.	A. and R. Dammartin owns
1229	Roger le Bigot owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
1248	Hugh de Vivonin owns
1313	Hervey de Staunton owns
c.1343	John de Beauchamp owns
c.1364	Priory of Ixworth, although this appears disputed
1401	Robert Ashfield owns (linked to Hepworth and Hunston)
1641	William Onslow owns
1655	Borrodaile Mileson owns
c.1689	Thomas Macro owns
18/19 th cent.	Robert Braddock owns
1905	Trustees of Elizabeth Huddleston owns

14. Markets/Fairs:

1241/42	Charter for market
1254/55	Charter for fair

15. Real property:

1844	£2,778 rental value
1891	£3,599 rateable value
1912	£3,003 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1884/1891 Land sub-divided
1912 A. Maitland Wilson and trustees of J. Sparke, principal owners

17. Resident gentry:

1679 Mr. Mileson
1844 Rev. A. Dickon DD
1891 Rev. H.N. Grimley MA
1912 Rev. C.H.L. Grimley MA and Rev. H.M. Grimley MA

18. Occupations:

1500–1549 2 husbandmen
1550–1599 1 labourer, 4 husbandmen, 9 yeomen, 1 shoemaker/cordwainer, 1 butcher
1600–1649 1 spinster, 2 labourers, 3 husbandmen 17 yeomen, 1 blacksmith, 1 rector
1650–1699 1 spinster, 2 labourers, 1 husbandman, 15 yeomen, 1 shoemaker/cordwainer, 2 clerks, 1 knacker, 1 grocer, 1 tailor
1831 176 in agriculture, 54 in retail trade, 3 professionals, 40 in domestic service, 5 others
1844 Surgeon, collar/harness maker, schoolmistress, cooper, rake maker, vet, carpenter, victualler/maltster, baker, 2 beerhouse keepers, 4 blacksmiths, 4 boot/shoemakers. 2 bricklayers, 2 corn millers, 18 farmers, 3 grocer/drapers, 2 tailors, 3 wheelwrights
1891 Rake maker
1912 Sub-postmaster, schoolmaster, 14 farmers, tailor, hairdresser, 3 beer retailers, surgeon, 2 publicans, butcher, poulterer, corn merchant, hawker/carrier, 2 boot/shoemakers, threshing machine and steam plough proprietor, 3 grocers, plumber/painter, farm bailiff, gardener, wheelwright, 2 bakers, carpenter, drill manufacturer/iron founder/wheelwright, blacksmith, carrier, bricklayer, nurseryman, gamekeeper

19. Education:

1818 3 day schools (53 attend)
1833 2 daily schools (46 attend), 1 Sunday school (41 attend)
1836 National School built, 60 attend 1844, c.150 attend 1891, average attendance 1912 130
1968 Offered for sale as former school
1987 New school in existence although under threat of closure

20. Poor relief:

1776	£218 13s. 2d.
1803	£367 17s. 4d.
1818	£1,255 7s.
1830	£763
1832	£1,076 10s.
1834	£662 7s.

21. Charities:

Poors Estate:

Cottage occupied by poor rent free
 13 acres 3R 7P let at £26 p.a. 52s. p.a applied to supply of bread to the poor, 12s. paid to minister for anniversary sermon on 19th September, 1s. to Sexton on same day, residue distributed among the poor.

Fiske's Charity Land:

1650	by Indenture of John Fiske: 4 ½ acres let at 52s. p.a. to provide 1 doz. breads weekly for 12/13 poor persons
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Stanniforth's Charity:

1773	by deed of William Stanniforth: £600 3% consols – dividends to provide 12 coats of strong cloth for 12 poor men and gowns/petticoats of strong stuff for 12 poor women. Fund consisted of £21 14s. 8d p.a. 1840 any residue is applied to poor relief.
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22. Other institutions:

1474	Guild of St. John Baptist called Town Guild
1477	Guild of St. John Baptist of Upstrete
1844	Lodge of Oddfellows meet at the Dog Inn
1837	Norton Church Friendly Society founded, meets at schoolrooms 1891
1968	Community Council formed

23. Recreation:

1844	The Dog Inn public house, 2 beerhouses
1891	3 beer houses, The Dog and The Plumbers Arms public houses
1912	3 beer retailers, The Dog and The Plumbers Arms public houses
c.1923	Womens Institute formed
1936	The Horseshoes public house in existence, burned down c.1979

1959 The Plumbers Arms pulled down
c.1976 Norton Bird Gardens opened

24. Personal:

Tillemans of Antwerp: painted staircase at Little Haugh Hall, died in parish 1734, buried at Stowlangtoft.

Cox Macro 1683–1757: Chaplain to George II. Distinguished antiquarian and virtuoso. His father was rich grocer of Bury St. Edmunds. Thomas Macro (his grandfather) was an apothecary and built Cupola House in Bury St. Edmunds, he was also an Alderman in Bury St Edmunds 1689.

'The Macro Plays' published volume of plays collected by Cox Macro
Photos of the Macro family can be found in the Farrer collection in Records Office

'The Reverend John Ashbourne c.1611–1661 and the origins of the Private Madhouse System' by R. Hunter and I. MacAlpine (British Medical Journal 1972). Rev. Ashbourne was rector of Norton 1646. Became known as 'a clerical mad-doctor of the 17th cent.'. It appears he was murdered by one of his patients by stabbing with a pitchfork.

25. Other information:

Little Haugh Hall: believed rebuilt by Cox Macro c.1734. The painter Tillemans died at the hall 1734.

It is believed Henry VIII made an abortive attempt to dig for gold in the parish, a mound in the grounds of Little Haugh Hall marks the site.

'Little Haugh Hall Sales Brochure' 1947.

'Little Haugh Hall', by N. Scarfe, an article in Country Life (June 1958).

'Little Haugh Hall, Norton', PSIA Vol.II, p.279.

'Norton Church', PSIA Vol.2, p.288.

Statue of St. Andrew placed in niche above S. porch of church as memorial to Rev. Horatio Nelson Grimley, rector from 1884–1918.

Murals found in Rookery Farm 1965 were believed to be the work of Tillemans.

Heavy traffic using the A1088 through the village causing increasing problems and dangers to residents 1987. Flashing warning speed signs erected 1988.