

# 1. Parish: Nowton

**Meaning:** New homestead or village

2. **Hundred:** Thingoe

**Deanery:** Thingoe (–1884), Horringer (Horningsheath) (1884–1972), Thingoe (1972–)

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

**RDC/UDC:** (W.Suffolk) Thingoe RD (1894–1974), St Edmundsbury DC (1974–)

## Other administrative details:

Ecclesiastical boundary change to include Hardwick 1937  
Bury St Edmunds County Court District  
Thingoe and Thedwastre Petty Sessional Division

3. **Area:** 1,165 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

### Mixed:

- a. Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion
- b. Deep well drained fine loam clay, coarse loam over clay and fine loamy soils, some with calcareous clay subsoils

5. **Types of farming:**

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 1086      | 4 acres meadow, wood for 5 pigs, 1 mill, 4 cobs, 18 cattle, 23 pigs, 80 sheep, 3 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 |
| 1660      | Blome: 'being clay ground husbanded chiefly for the dairy' and 'fielding abounding with excellent corn of all sorts'  |
| 1818      | Marshall: Course of crops varies usually including summer fallow as preparation for corn products   |
| 1937      | Main crops: Wheat, oats, barley, turnips, dairy and poultry, fresh milk and eggs daily  |
| 1969      | Trist: More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet   |

**6. Enclosure:**

1828 431 acres enclosed under Act of 1827

**7. Settlement:**

1958 Small compact development to one side of Bury St Edmunds to Hawstead road. Two green areas a) High Green (moated farmhouse and church) and b) Small Green (almshouses and few cottages)  
**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 17, 1801 – 25, 1851 – 42, 1871 – 41, 1901– 49, 1951 – 55, 1981 – 57

**8. Communications:**

**Road:** To Bury St Edmunds and Hawstead  
Carrier to Bury St Edmunds daily 1839  
Carrier to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday 1937

**9. Population:**

1086 – 35 recorded  
1327 – 18 taxpayers paid £1 0s. 7d.  
1524 – 20 taxpayers paid £1 17s. 3d.  
1603 – 60 adults  
1674 – 24 households  
1676 – 79 adults  
1801 – 170 inhabitants  
1831 – 137 inhabitants  
1851 – 187 inhabitants  
1871 – 178 inhabitants  
1901 – 201 inhabitants  
1931 – 185 inhabitants  
1951 – 203 inhabitants  
1971 – 152 inhabitants  
1981 – 172 inhabitants

**10. Benefice:**

1254 Valued at £4 13s. 4d.  
Portion of Johannis of Dickleburgh £3 6s. 8d.  
Portion of St. Saviours £2  
£9 0s. 0d.  
1291 Valued £6 13s. 4d.  
1535 Valued £5 19s. 4 1/2d.  
1831 Curate, stipend £68 p.a. Glebe House unfit for occupation.  
Gross income £314 p.a. Incumbent also holds rectories of Redgrave with Botesdale and Lt. Whelnetham £347. 15s. p.a. awarded in lieu of tithes (1849)  
Valued £290 (1873)  
1912 Nett value £180. 10 acres glebe

**Patrons:** Anthony Payne (1603), Marquis of Bristol (1831–)

**11. Church St Peter**  
(Chancel, nave, S. Porch, W. tower)

1086 Church + 8 acres free land  
Norman S. and N. doors  
1300 Chancel (restored 1876), W tower  
1843 Small aisle rebuilt. Enlarged and reseated

**Seats:** 80 free (1873)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

1606 2 persons refused by minister at communion

**13. Manorial:**

**Nowton Manor**

c.955 Given to monks by Theodred  
1066/1086 Manor of 4 carucates belonging to the Abbot of Bury St Edmunds  
1203 Granted to Benedict de Blakeham as tenant of the Abbey  
1545 Henry Payne owns  
c.1621 Sir Daniel de Ligne owns  
1657 Earl of St Albans owns descending via Jermyn family to the Hervey family (linked to Ixworth)  
1832 Orbell Ray Oakes purchased from the Marquis of Bristol  
Custom: Borough English

**14. Markets/Fairs:**

**15. Real property:**

1454 £1 10s. 4 1/2d rateable value  
1844 £1,683 rental value  
1891 £1,895 rateable value  
1912 £1,513 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844 Land sub-divided  
1891/1912 J.H. Oakes and Marquis of Bristol, principal owners

**17. Resident gentry:**

1680 1 gent recorded  
Henry James Oakes MA, JP, DL., Alderman of Bury St Edmunds,  
Mayor of Bury St Edmunds and High Sheriff c.1837

**18. Occupations:**

1500–1600	Husbandman
1600–1700	Carpenters, yeoman
1700–1800	Farmers
1831	29 in agriculture, 3 in retail trade, 4 in labouring, 6 in domestic service, 2 others
1844	Schoolmistress, gamekeeper, farmers, shopkeeper, banker
1912	Gardener, farmers

**19. Education:**

1818	Day school (14 scholars paid 3d. each to attend) 1 Sunday school supported by gentleman of the parish (28 attend)
1833	1 infant and Daily school supported by Mr. Oakes (20 attend) New schoolroom built by subscription 1843 Public Elementary school built 1879, average attendance 1912 27

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£35 8s. 0d.
1803	£130 4s. 6d.
1818	£323 14s.
1830	£224 16s.
1832	£208
1834	£184 5s.

**21. Charities:**

**Brownsmith Charity:**

1873	Benefaction for distribution of money
1889	Land and buildings for use of education

**Poor Land:**

1840	For fuel
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**22. Other institutions:**

4 almshouses built by Lt. Col. H.H. Oakes 1877

**23. Recreation:**

**24. Personal:**

Rev. Nicholas Batteley (no dates) editor of the improved edition of Somner's 'Antiquities of Canterbury'. Local antiquarian.

**25. Other information:**

Site of Nowton Hall: now farmhouse (owned by Marquis of Bristol)

Nowton Hall: 16<sup>th</sup> cent. fine cluster of octagonal chimneys bearing date 1595.

'A Description of the glass in St. Peters Church, Nowton', by Dr. W. Cole.