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

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


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 2¼ 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


10. Benefice: **Rectory**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1254</td>
<td>£13 6s. 8d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1291</td>
<td>£14 13s. 4d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1341</td>
<td>£16 2s.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1535</td>
<td>£14 3s. 9½d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1835</td>
<td>£458</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1839</td>
<td>Modus of £611 p.a. in lieu of tithes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1891</td>
<td>21 acres glebe and rectory house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912</td>
<td>Nett value £320 p.a. 21 acres glebe and residence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

11. Church **St. Andrew** (Chancel, vestry, nave, aisles, S. porch, W. tower)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1086</td>
<td>Church plus 30 acres land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.1300</td>
<td>Chancel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>early 14th cent.</td>
<td>N. aisle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1442</td>
<td>Money left for completion of tower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15th cent.</td>
<td>Main structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1881/1898</td>
<td>Restorations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Seats:** 165 appropriated, 234 free (1873)

12. **Nonconformity etc:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1676</td>
<td>8 nonconformists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1705–1825</td>
<td>5 houses set aside for worship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1825/1835</td>
<td>Chapels built</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1834</td>
<td>Baptist chapel built by Mr. S. Hustler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No date</td>
<td>Wesleyan chapel built</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Salvation Army corps and hall in existence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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:**

12th 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 Milesen owns
c.1689  Thomas Macro owns
18/19th 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

**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.

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
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’, by N. Scarfe, an article in Country Life (June 1958).


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.