

1. Parish: Bacton

Meaning: Bacca's homestead/village

2. Hundred: Hartismere

Deanery: Hartismere (–1897), Hartismere (South) (1897–1931), S. Hartismere (1931–1972), Stowmarket (1972–)

Union: Hartismere

RDC/UDC: (E. Suffolk) Hartismere RD (– 1974), Mid Suffolk DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Civil boundary change 1883
Hartismere Petty Sessional Division
Stowmarket County Court District

3. Area: 2,290 acres (1912)

4. Soils: Fine loam over clay soil with slowly permeable subsoil. Subject to seasonal waterlogging

5. Types of farming:

1086		Woodland for 100 pigs, 9 cobs, 8 cattle, 100 sheep, 36 goats, 40 pigs
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
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1958 Elongated settlement well spread along Finningham/Haughley road. Church situated at northern end of village while site of original rectory is at southern end

near Bacton Green. Secondary settlement at Canham
Green and Fords Green
Scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 64, 1801 – 83, 1851 – 182, 1871 – 138,
1901 – 131, 1951 – 163, 1981 – 343

8. Communications:

Road: To Haughley, Finningham and Wyverstone

Rail: 1891 – 1 mile Finningham station (actually situated within this parish): Ipswich–Norwich line opened 1848, station closed 1966

9. Population:

1086 – 63 recorded

1327 – 35 taxpayers paid £2 15s. 3d.

1524 – 58 taxpayers (1 membrane missing –suggested 12 more taxpayers were contained on this, making a possible total of 70) paid £10 5s.

1603 – 200 adults

1674 – 86 households

1676 – 277 adults

1801 – 585 inhabitants

1831 – 758 inhabitants

1851 – 901 inhabitants

1871 – 659 inhabitants

1901 – 581 inhabitants

1931 – 541 inhabitants

1951 – 563 inhabitants

1971 – 680 inhabitants

1981 – 946 inhabitants

10. Benefice: VICARAGE

1254 Not recorded

1291 Valued £20

1535 Valued £12 13s. 3½d.

1831 Glebe house. Gross income £267 p.a. Incumbent also holds rectory of Bradfield, Norfolk
Rent charge of £750 p.a. in lieu of tithes 1841. 53 acres glebe

1912 Nett value £475. 53 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: Sir John Pretymann (1603), Hon. John and Mrs. Woodhouse (1831), H.M. Hemsworth (1855), Rev. A.E. Stantial (1912)

- 11. Church** **St. Mary**
 (Chancel, nave, aisles, S. porch, W. tower with small spire)
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|-----------------------|--|
| 1086 | Church + 24 acres valued 3s. |
| 14 th cent | Tower, spire built 18 th cent., taken down 1935
Nave roof – double hammerbeam (figures sawn off) |
| 1860 | Restoration (chancel) |
| 1860–1864 | Roofs restored |

Seats: 293 (all free)

12. Nonconformity etc:

- | | |
|------|--------------------------------------|
| 1676 | 6 papists, 12 nonconformists |
| 1769 | Dwelling house set aside for Quakers |
| 1824 | House set apart for worship |

13. Manorial:

Bacton Manor

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|------|---|
| | Anciently in hands of Bishop of Norwich |
| 1318 | Grant of free warren |
| 1535 | Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk) |
| 1553 | Anne of Cleves owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk) |
| 1560 | Thomas, Duke of Norfolk owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk) |
| 1586 | William Pretymen owns (linked to Cotton and Braiseworth) |
| | Remained in Pretymen family until at least 1773 |
| | Customs: Borough English (youngest son inherits) |
| | Rights of gallows and stocks, view of flankpledge |
| | Rights to all waifs and strays, Assize of bread and beer. Freedom of entry of Kings officers within bounds of manor |

Sub-Manors:

Boys/Horinger's Manor

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1086 | Estate of 80 acres |
| 13 th cent. | Held by family of De Bois al Bosco or Boys or Du Bois |
| 14 th cent. | Vested in family of Honningsherth or Hornyngeshierth of Bacta |
| 1464 | Richard Dryver owns |
| 1550 | Thomas Pretymen owns (possibly linked to main manor) |

1564/65 Survey gives 80 acres wood and pasture by Knights service and for ward of Norwich Castle

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844 £2,750 rental value
1891 £3,919 rateable value
1912 £3,248 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844 Land sub-divided
1891/1912 Capt. E.J. Pretymen, principle owner

17. Resident gentry:

1673 George Pretymen
1680 3 gentlemen
1741 George Pretymen, High Sheriff of Suffolk
1776 John Frere, High Sheriff of Suffolk
1844 Rev. E.B. Barter
1912 Rev. J.S. Vallalley BA and D. Black JP

18. Occupations:

1500–1549 1 smith, 4 yeomen, 1 tailor, 1 priest
1550–1599 1 clerk, 2 blacksmiths, 1 rector, 1 parson, 9 husbandmen, 9 yeomen, 2 carpenters
1600–1649 1 tailor, 2 weavers, 1 linen weaver, 1 butcher, 2 clerks, 1 smith, 1 blacksmith, 1 cook, 1 coal burner, 1 physician, 2 spinsters, 6 husbandmen, 17 yeomen, 1 cooper, 1 shepherd, 1 grocer, 1 gunsmith
1650–1699 1 tailor, 2 cordwainers, 2 clerks, 3 blacksmiths, 1 bricklayer, 1 spinster, 1 husbandmen, 16 yeomen, 1 cooper
1831 128 in agriculture, 35 in retail trade, 2 professionals, 39 in domestic service, 11 others
1844 3 shoemakers, teacher, 2 butchers, maltster, 2 tailors, steward, blacksmith, wine/spirit merchant, corn miller, bricklayer, plumber/painter, farrier, grocer/draper, beerhouse keeper, wheelwright, victualler,/carpenter, 21 farmers
1912 Sub-postmaster, 15 farmer, station master, thatcher, beer retailer, cartage contractor, threshing machine owner, butcher, builder, smith, publican, Finningham Station granaries, coal merchant, 2 shopkeepers, insurance agent, grocer

19. Education:

1818	1 day school supported by voluntary subscription (60 attend)
1819	1 Wesleyan school (19 attend daily)
1828	1 daily school (15 attend)
1830	1 daily school, (30 attend)
1871	School Board formed and schoolhouse built
1875	Public Elementary School established, average attendance 1912 137

20. Poor relief:

1776	£202 4s.1d.
1803	£423 5s. 7½d.
1818	£1,064 3s.
1830	£1,118 15s.
1832	£1,119 4s.
1834	£898 19s.

21. Charities:

Town Lands:

1840	49½ acres in Bacton, Old Newton, and Finningham let at £100 p.a. applied to churchwardens expenses and poor relief
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Doles:

1840	Daines Gift: £1 1s. 4d. p.a. applied to churchwardens expenses and poor relief	Warrens Dole:
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22. Other institutions:

1803	Friendly Society (39 members)
1893	Parish rooms built, used as men's club

23. Recreation:

1844	1 beerhouse, and The Bull Inn public house
1891	1 beerhouse, The Grapes and The Bull public houses
1912	1 beer retailer, The Bull public house
1970	Bowls Club
1973	Scouts Hall
1977	R. Finbow's Mechanical Music Museum
1982	Bacton's Restaurant opened at West House
1983	Under 5's group

24. Personal:

1773 George Pretyman, Alderman and Chief Magistrate of
Bury St. Edmunds

25. Other information:

Manor House Farm: built 1715–20 by the Pretyman family.

Manor House rebuilt by Rev. John Pistor c.1727.

Bacton Manor House built by George Pretyman c.18th cent. (could refer to Manor House Farm above). Lands greatly reduced by sequestration during Civil War.

Murder of Maria Steggalls 1850. John Flack convicted at Ipswich and hanged.

West House built 1530, subsequently renovated.

Village sign erected 1978, restored 1983.

'Bacton Church', PSIA Vol. V, p.185.