

# 1. Parish: Burgate

**Meaning:** Fortified place (Ekwall)  
Also implied: burial road

2. **Hundred:** Hartismere

**Deanery:** Hartismere ( - 1897), Hartismere (North) (1897 – 1931),  
N. Hartismere (1931 – 1972), Hartismere (1972 - )

**Union:** Hartismere

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

## Other administrative details:

Hartismere Petty Sessional Division  
Eye County Court District

3. **Area:** 2,067 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Fine loam over clay soil. Subject to seasonal waterlogging

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		80 pigs, 12 cattle, 176 sheep, 57 goats, wood – 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 in preparation for corn products
1937	Main crops:	4 course system: wheat, barley, clover, roots
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

7. **Settlement:**

1958 Very diverse parish with concentrations of habitation  
around three centres: a) Burgate Great Green, b) the  
Church and c) Burgate Little Green.

Some scattered farms

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 30, 1801 – 52, 1851 – 69, 1871 – 65, 1901 – 55, 1951 – 54, 1981 – 53

**8. Communications:**

**Road:** Roads to Gislingham and Botesdale

**Rail:** 1891 1½ miles Mellis station: Mellis – Eye line, opened (1867), closed for passengers (1931), closed for goods (1964). Ipswich – Norwich line, opened (1849), station closed for passengers (1966)

**9. Population:**

1086 — 70 recorded  
1327 — 27 taxpayers paid £2. 0s. 3d.  
1524 — 27 taxpayers paid £1. 17s. 6d.  
1603 — 92 adults  
1674 — 40 households  
1676 — 138 adults  
1801 — 296 inhabitants  
1831 — 343 inhabitants  
1851 — 350 inhabitants  
1871 — 299 inhabitants  
1901 — 229 inhabitants  
1931 — 190 inhabitants  
1951 — 174 inhabitants  
1971 — 138 inhabitants  
1981 — 154 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Rectory**

1254 Valued £6. 13s. 4d.  
Tithe of the Prior of Hatfield 5s. £6. 18s. 4d.  
1291 Valued £13. 6s. 8d.  
Portion to the Prior of Hatfield 5s. £13. 11s. 8d.  
1535 Valued £13. 10s. 10d.  
1674 Rectory has 7 hearths  
New rectory built (1827)  
1831 Curate, stipend £100 p.a. in lieu of tithes. 70 acres glebe.  
Residence near church (1855)  
1912 Nett value £390. 74 acres glebe and residence

**Patrons:** Sir Nicholas Bacon (1603), Bishop of Ely (1831), Bishop of Norwich (1855 and 1912)

- 11. Church      St. Mary**  
(Chancel, nave, S. porch, W. tower)
- 1086                  .....churches, 29 acres land, ½ plough  
4<sup>th</sup> part of a church + 1 acre land  
Present church erected (circa 1350)
- 14<sup>th</sup> cent.          Tower and chancel
- 1864/65          Nave restored
- 1872                  Chancel restored
- Seats:**                                  200
- 12. Nonconformity etc:**
- 1676                  9 nonconformists  
John Kew of Burgate attended meeting of Dissenters in Eye (1645)  
Wesleyan chapel built (1830), seats 80
- 13. Manorial:**
- Burgate Manor**
- 1066                  Manor of 5 carucates held by Wulfwin
- 1086                  Manor of 5 carucates belonging to Aubrey de Vere and held by Adelelm
- 14<sup>th</sup> cent.          Robert de Burgate holds
- 1549                  Sir Nicholas Bacon owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
- Sub-Manors:**
- Higham**
- 1576                  Sir James Hobart died seised  
Suggested as manor referred to in Calendar of Suffolk Fines as Manor of Hugh Hemhale (appurtenances in Burgate, Gyssingham and Mellis (1328))
- 14. Markets/Fairs**
- Grant of market and fair (1271/72)
- 15. Real property:**
- 1844                  £2,524 rental value
- 1891                  £2,231 rateable value
- 1912                  £1,641 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844-1912 Land sub-divided

**17. Resident gentry:**

1844 Rev. C.R. Ashfield BA  
1912 Rev. R. Hutton MA

**18. Occupations:**

1500-1549 2 husbandmen, 1 labourer  
1550-1599 1 yeoman, 3 husbandmen, 1 priest, 1 turner, 1 labourer, 1 parson  
1600-1649 7 yeomen, 1 husbandman, 1 shoemaker, 1 coal burner, 1 carpenter  
1650-1699 6 yeomen, 2 husbandmen, 1 cordwainer, 1 linen weaver  
1831 75 in agriculture, 1 professional, 8 in domestic service, 10 others  
1844 Blacksmith, victualler, 10 farmers  
1912 8 farmers, publican, grocer, farm bailiff, blacksmith

**19. Education:**

1818 Sunday School (34 attend)  
1833 1 day school (20/30 attend)  
School built (1872), average attendance (1912) 50

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£110. 12s. 8d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£284. 1s. 11½d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£511. 4s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£558. 3s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£577. 7s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£479. 4s.	spent on poor relief

**21. Charities:**

**22. Other institutions:**

1803 Guild of St. Trinity (1484)  
Friendly Society (26 members)

**23. Recreation:**

1844-1912 THE KINGS HEAD public house  
Eye and District British Legion (1927)

#### **24. Personal:**

Henry Walton of Oak Tree Farm, Burgate (1812): Suffolk artist  
'Burgate' by Rev. Appleyard of Burgate (1931)  
P.O. Hill (former rector of Burgate): author of 'Beccles from Burgate'

#### **25. Other information:**

Family tress of principle Burgate families – see 'Beccles from Burgate' by P.O. Hill

Burgate Hall: built (1587/88) by Sir Nicholas Bacon. Original hall situated in Burgate Wood – moated ruin

War Memorial designed by Rev. B. Appleyard built in Easter Sepulchre in the church (1927)

It has been suggested (as a theory to explain the meaning of Burgate) that the body of St. Edmund rested here on its journey from Hoxne to Bury St. Edmunds

'The Burgate Hall Charters (mid 13<sup>th</sup> cent. – 1487)' PSIA Vol. XIX p.352  
(found among papers at Redgrave Hall 1921)

'Notice of Burgate Church: Architectural Monuments' PSIA Vol. I p.208

#### **Archaeological Sites**

Med. Church of St. Mary (CRN 8341)  
B.A. excavation/arrowhead (CRN 8344)  
I.A. pottery production site (CRN 8385)  
Med. moated sites (CRN 8346, 8348, 8350, 8355, 8360, 8361)  
Med. toft (CRN 8352)  
PMed tile kiln (CRN 8353)  
Un. Barrow (CRN 8356)  
Preh. Excavation/worked flint (CRN 8357)  
PMed excavation/road/horseshoe (CRN 8362)

Stray finds:	Rom. Coin (CRN 8342, 8349, 8354, 8358)
	Sax. Brooch (CRN 8347)
	Med. Seal (CRN 8359)
	Neo. Axe (CRN 8343)
Scatter finds:	Sax. Pottery (CRN 8340)
	Rom. Pottery (CRN 8351)