

# 1. Parish : Coney Weston

**Meaning:** The King's enclosure/village

2. **Hundred:** Blackbourn

**Deanery:** Blackburne (–1972), Ixworth (1972–)

**Union:** Thetford

**RDC/UDC:** (W. Suffolk) Brandon RD (1894–1935), Thingoe RD (1935–1974), St Edmundsbury DC (1974–)

## Other administrative details:

Abolished ecclesiastically to create Barningham with Coney Weston 1802  
Blackbourn Petty Sessional Division  
Thetford County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,351 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

**Mixed:** a. Slowly permeable seasonally water-logged fine loam over clay  
b. Deep well drained sand soils, In places very acid.  
Risk wind erosion

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		4 acres meadow, wood for 4 pigs, 1 cob, 10 cattle, 12 pigs, 80 sheep, 24 goats
1283		Not recorded
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. Also has similarities with sheep-corn region where sheep are main fertilising agent, bred for fattening, barley main cash crop.
1818	Marshall:	Wide variations of crop and management techniques including summer fallow in preparation for corn and rotation of turnip, barley, clover, wheat on lighter lands
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, oats, turnips
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

**6. Enclosure:**

1777 1,060 acres enclosed under Private Act of Lands 1776

**7. Settlement:**

1950/1980 Small well spaced development along line of southern boundary with Barningham. Church isolated to west of development. Line of Roman road (Peddars Way) crosses parish from N–S in western sector of parish. Airfield intrudes into parish to the north possibly influencing development in this area. Few scattered farms.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 19, 1801 – 21, 1851 – 58, 1871 – 55,  
1901 – 49, 1951 – 49, 1981 – 47

**8. Communications:**

**Roads:** To Barningham, Market Weston, Hopton and Brettenham.  
Main Bury St. Edmunds–Norwich road formerly crossed the Little Ouse river nearby.  
1912: Carrier to Bury St Edmunds on  
Wednesday and Saturday  
To Thetford on Friday

**Air:** Knettishall airfield built 1942/43, designed as Class 'A' heavy bomber station for USAF.  
Reverted to RAF 1945, closed 1957

**Water:** Little Ouse: Tributary of Gt. Ouse, made navigable by Acts designed to improve navigation 1670 although there is some evidence to suggest the river was used for trade purposes earlier than this. Declined due to rail transport and general silting of the river c.1850's

**9. Population:**

1086 – 17 recorded  
1327 – 35 taxpayers paid £2 10s.  
1524 – membrane either missing or illegible  
1603 – 20 adults  
1662 – 18 householders paid £2 15s.\*  
1674 – 25 households  
1676 – 70 adults  
1801 – 198 inhabitants  
1831 – 255 inhabitants  
1851 – 266 inhabitants  
1871 – 209 inhabitants

1901 – 230 inhabitants  
 1931 – 197 inhabitants  
 1951 – 173 inhabitants  
 1971 – 140 inhabitants  
 1981 – 134 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 (consolidated with Barningham) 1831  
Discharged Rectory 1844, Curacy 1873**

1254 Valued £8  
 1291 Valued £13 6s. 8d.  
 1341 Valued £9 13s.  
 1535 Valued £13 0s. 4d.  
 1831 1 curate, stipend £100 p.a. Glebe house. Joint gross income £800 p.a.  
 1843 Tithes commuted for £433 19s. p.a.  
 1887 21 acres 2R 18P. Gross income £41 16s. 6d.  
 1891 25½ acres  
 1912 Joint nett value £580 p.a. 26 acres glebe and residence

**Patrons:** Sir Thomas Lovell (1603), R. Hunt (1831)

**11. Church St. Mary**  
 (Chancel, nave, S. porch, W. turret – thatched)

1086 Church plus 8 acres free land in alms  
 14<sup>th</sup> cent. Nave and chancel. Main fabric  
 Date unknown  
 Chancel chapel pulled down  
 Early 19th cent.  
 Tower fell down  
 1887, 1891 Restorations

**Seats:** 4 pews appropriated, remainder free (1873)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

1814–1829 2 houses set aside for worship

**13. Manorial:**

1066/1086 Manor of 2 carucates belonging to the Abbot of St. Edmunds. Valued £6  
 1545 Francis Lovell owns (linked to Gt. Waldingfield, Acton)  
 1614 George Cooke owns  
 1641 Maurice Barrow owns (linked to Barningham)  
 1665 Maurice Shelton owns (linked to Higham, Raydon, Wenham Magna and Barningham)

1810 Bridgman family owns  
1905 Edward Henry Sawbridge owns

**14. Markets/Fairs:**

**15. Real property:**

1844 £1,685 rental value  
1891 £1,785 rateable value  
1912 £1,109 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844 Edward Bridgman and T. Thornhill principal owners  
1891 Rev. J.S. Sawbridge and Sir T. Thornhill principal owners  
1912 H.A. Oliverson/W.N.L. Champion principal owners

**17. Resident gentry:**

1842 Edward Bridgman, High Sheriff of Suffolk  
1891 Rev. A.W. Edwards MA  
1912 Lt. Col. H.S. Follett JP

**18. Occupations:**

1550–1599 3 husbandmen, 5 yeomen, 1 parson, 1 shepherd  
1600–1649 1 linen weaver, 7 yeomen, 1 carpenter, 1 weaver, 1 labourer  
1650–1699 2 linen weavers, 1 husbandman, 10 yeomen, 1 blacksmith, 1 carpenter, 1 collar maker, 1 gardener  
1831 51 in agriculture, 7 in retail trade, 3 in labouring, 5 in domestic service  
1844 Shopkeeper, shoemaker, 1 farmer  
1912 Sub-postmaster, schoolmistress, shopkeeper, 3 farmers, asst. overseer, builder, gardener, farm bailiff

**19. Education:**

1833 1 daily school (27 attend), 1 Sunday school (43 attend)  
1852 Parochial school built  
1897 Public Elementary school built, average attendance 1912 56  
Note: Old school used as reading room

**20. Poor relief:**

1776 £34 9s. 9d.  
1803 £103 19s. 8d.  
1818 £308 12s.  
1830 £274  
1832 £256 13s.

1834            £168 4s.

**21. Charities:**

**Town Estate:**

1840            2 cottages occupied by paupers  
8 acres 1R let at £10 12s p.a. applied to church repairs  
and general support of poor

**Firmage's Charity**

1611            By benefaction of R. Firmage: land called Little Seals,  
Rattlesden let at £1 10s. 6d. p.a. for distribution among  
labouring poor

**Fen Land:**

1840            10 acres let at £5 p.a. applied with Firmage Charity  
above.

**22. Other institutions:**

1912            Reading Room converted from old school

**23. Recreation:**

**24. Personal:**

**25. Other information:**

Coney Weston Hall: early 19<sup>th</sup> cent. Rebuilding of older house.  
Park and lands of Coney Weston Hall greatly enlarged 1891.

'A look at 18<sup>th</sup> cent. Coney Weston Hall'. Suffolk Fair Oct. 1979, p.36.  
– used as conference centre and hotel 1979.

Group of transcribed wills 1461–1504.

Unusual three-storey cottage (former parsonage).