

1. Parish: Cotton

Meaning: Codda's homestead/village (Ekwall)

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: 2,008 acres (1912)

4. Soils:

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

5. Types of farming:

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, sugar beet, beans
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. Enclosure:

7. Settlement:

1958 Small fairly compact settlement around the church. Railway crosses parish to the NW. Some scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 46, 1801 – 62, 1851 – 117, 1871 – 123,
1901 – 101, 1951 – 121, 1981 – 144

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Finningham, Bacton and Wickham Skeith
1930s Buses to Stowmarket and Ipswich
Rail: 1891 1 mile Finningham station: Ipswich – Norwich line,
opened (1848), station closed (1966)

9. Population:

1086 — 40 recorded
1327 — 30 taxpayers paid £3. 3s.
1524 — 22 taxpayers paid £2. 15s. 3d.
1603 — 110 adults
1674 — 74 households
1676 — 228 recorded
1801 — 441 inhabitants
1831 — 585 inhabitants
1851 — 571 inhabitants
1871 — 536 inhabitants
1901 — 421 inhabitants
1931 — 366 inhabitants
1951 — 363 inhabitants
1971 — 395 inhabitants
1981 — 412 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254 Valued £13. 6s. 8d.
1291 Valued £16
1535 Valued £15. 10s. 2½d.
Residence rebuilt (1811)
1831 Glebe house. Gross income £3457 p.a. Incumbent also
holds Vicarage of Stow Beden, Norfolk.
19 acres 30P glebe. Tithes commuted for £485 p.a.
(1839)
1912 Nett value £282. 18 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: Mr. Pretyman (1603), Incumbent (1831), M. Turner (1855),
Rev. J. E. Cowell (1912)

11. Church St. Andrew

(Chancel, clerestoried nave, aisles, S. porch, W. tower)

1086 Church + 11 acres land, valued 2s.
Tower has massive buttresses 4' 8" wide
14th cent. S. door, stoup in S. porch, 5 bay aisles, arcade

Will of (1471) gives close called 'Garlekis' for repair and building of new roof to clerestory
 N. of sanctuary: arched recess 8' up – possible 2 storied chamber existing north of chancel
 1890 Tower restored
 1903 Restoration

Seats: 300 (1855)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1676 4 papists, 4 nonconformists
 House set aside for worship (1816)
 Wesleyan Reformers chapel built (1853)

13. Manorial:

1086 Manor of 1 carucate 15 acres belonging to the King and held by Alwin
 1066 Manor of 30 acres held by Asgar under patronage of Leofwin of Bacton
 1086 Manor of 30 acres belonging to Robert Malet

Cotton Briseworth

13th cent. William Briseworth owns
 1447 William de la Pole owns (linked to Aspall and Debenham)
 1541 Anne of Cleves owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
 1573 Duke of Norfolk owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk)
 1592 William Pretymann owns
 Customs: Borough English. Others listed in Copinger

Sub-Manors:

Cotton Hempnall/Caldecott

12th cent. Sir Robert de Sackville held the Honor of Eye (linked to Braiseworth and Wetheringsett)
 1367 Sir Ralph de Hemenhale owns (possible links with Wickham Skeith and Yaxley)
 1418 William Wingfield died seised
 1573 Duke of Norfolk owns (absorbed by main manor)

Campine's/Champains/Cumpyns

1316 Richard Champagne held
 1367 Sir Ralph de Hemenhale owns (absorbed by Hempnalls)
 1538 Charles Brandon owns (absorbed by main manor)

Gipswich

1406 Sir Robert Hemenhale owns (absorbed by Hempnalls)

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844	£2,425 rental value
1891	£2,390 rateable value
1912	£1,841 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844-1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

1680	1 gentleman
1844	Rev. P. Eade BA
1912	Rev. C. Edward MA

18. Occupations:

1550–1599	5 yeomen, 2 husbandmen, 1 thatcher, 1 butcher
1600–1649	16 yeomen, 1 cordwainer, 1 husbandman, 2 blacksmiths
1650–1699	6 yeomen, 2 husbandmen, 2 bricklayers, 1 butcher, 1 cooper
1831	96 in agriculture, 19 in retail trade, 4 professionals, 4 in labouring, 13 in domestic service.
1844	Victualler/butcher, wheelwright, miller, 2 bricklayers, beerhouse keeper, 13 farmers, blacksmith
1912	Sub-postmistress, police officer, 3 shopkeepers, coal dealer, miller, seedsman, 12 farmers, 3 carpenters, 2 shoemakers, 2 farm bailiffs, beer retailer/shopkeeper, 2 publicans, blacksmith

19. Education:

	1 schoolmaster/tutor recorded (1654-1659)
1818	Wesleyan Methodist Sunday school
1833	Wesleyan Methodist Sunday school (166 attend)
	School built (1875), 90 attend, average attendance (1912) 50

20. Poor relief:

1776	£103. 4s. 2d.	spent on poor relief
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1803	£336. 9s. 6d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£1,566. 19s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£715. 13s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£719. 19s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£577. 11s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Town Estate:

1840 Workhouse, 1 cottage and yard occupied by poor persons, 2 closes of 8 acres, let at £9/10 p.a.. Rents applied to church repairs and general parochial purposes

22. Other institutions:

1912 Guild house recorded (1477)
 1 Guild (1524)
 Almshouses (10 inmates) (1674)
 House converted to workhouse (1840)
 1912 Police officer

23. Recreation:

1844 THE TROWEL AND HAMMER public house (16th – 20th cent.)
 1891 1 beerhouse and THE COCK AND BOTTLE public house
 1891 THE RAILWAY TAVERN and THE COCK INN public houses
 1912 1 beer retailer and THE RAILWAY TAVERN and THE COCK INN public houses
 No dates Mechanical Music Museum

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Cotton Hall: ancient site of mansion with broad moat, now used as farmhouse.

Hempnall Hall: ancient moated building

Exhibition of farm machinery (1979)

Cotton Lodge: built (circa 1580), reputedly used as meeting place by conspirators in Gunpowder Plot. Moated.

Archaeological Sites

Med. moated sites (CRN 5488, 5489, 5490, 5491, 5495, 5496, 5497, 5498, 5501)

Irregular enclosure (CRN 5500)

Sax. Cemetery (CRN 5502)

Causewayed ring ditch (CRN 3482)

Stray finds:

- Mes. Adze (CRN 5492)
- Med. pottery (CRN 5493)
- Coin (CRN 5494, 5499, 5504)
- Rom. Figurine (CRN 5503)