

1. Parish : Euston (includes former parish of Little Fakenham)

Meaning: Eof's homestead/village

2. **Hundred:** Blackbourn

Deanery: Blackbourn (–1972), Ixworth (1972–)

Union: Thetford

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

Other administrative details:

Ecclesiastical boundary change gains Fakenham Parva pre 1535

Civil boundary change 1886

Gains part of Rushford, Norfolk 1894

Blackbourn Petty Sessional Division

Thetford County Court District

3. **Area:** 5,379 acres of land, 31 acres water (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed:

- a. Deep well drained sandy soils, some very acid especially under heath or woodland. Risk wind erosion
- b. Shallow well drained calcareous coarse loam and sandy soils over chalk rubble. Slight risk water erosion.
- c. Deep permeable sand and peat soils affected by groundwater. Risk of winter flooding and wind erosion near river.

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		3 acres meadow, 2 mills Fakenham: 23 acres meadow, wood for 12 pigs, 1 mill, 3 cobs, 16 wild mares, 12 cattle, 20 pigs, 300 sheep
1283		356 quarters to crops (2,848 bushels), 44 head horse, 138 cattle, 4 pigs, 1,103 sheep* Fakenham Parva: not recorded
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep-corn region, sheep main fertilising agent, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop.
1813	Young:	227 acres wood, 1,450 acres Park, 736 acres arable. Crops: Turnips, barley, seeds, peas and

wheat.
 Fakenham Wood: 314 acres
 1818 Marshall: Management varies with condition of sandy soils. Rotation usually turnip, barley, clover, wheat or turnips as preparation for corn and grass.
 1937 Main crops: Wheat, barley, oats, turnips
 1969 Trist: Barley and sugar beet are the main crops with some rye grown on poorer lands and a little wheat, herbage seeds and carrots. Grafton Dairy Herd established 1956, offered for sale 1987

* 'A Suffolk Hundred in 1283,' by E. Powell (1910). Concentrates on Blackbourn Hundred. Gives land usage, livestock and the taxes paid.

6. Enclosure:

1671 Licence to impark 2,000 acres in Euston, Great Fakenham, Sapiston and Coney Weston
 1740 Little Fakenham entirely enclosed within Euston Park

7. Settlement:

1958/1980 Roads routed around Euston Park which occupies large proportion of land in centre of parish. Small compact settlement on western edge of park. Church isolated within grounds of Park. Western sector of land reaches out into elongated point culminating at Rymer Point. Blackbourn River crosses western sector from N-S. Little Ouse River forms natural boundary to west. Few scattered farms. Fakenham Parva – nothing remains

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 5, 1801 – 16, 1851 – 44, 1871 – 48, 1901 – 65, 1951 – 74, 1981 – 52
 Rushford: 1851 – 11 in Suffolk

8. Communications:

Roads: Roads to Barnham, Fakenham Magna and Rushford
 1891: Carrier passes through to Thetford on Saturday

Rail: 1891 3 miles Thetford station: Thetford–Bury St Edmunds line opened 1876, closed for passengers 1953, closed for goods 1960.

Water: River Blackbourn
 Little Ouse River: Tributary of Great Ouse, made navigable by Acts designed to improve navigation 1670 although there is some evidence to suggest that 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 – Euston – 6 recorded
Fakenham Parva – 1 recorded
1327 – Euston – 21 taxpayers paid £1 14s. 1d.
Fakenham Parva – 9 taxpayers paid £1 16s.
1524 – Euston – 28 taxpayers paid £14 13s. 4d.
Fakenham Parva – membrane either missing or illegible
1603 – Not recorded
1662 – 5 householders paid £2 3s. plus 7 poor persons listed*
1674 – 5 households
1676 – 69 adults
1801 – 198 inhabitants
1831 – 202 inhabitants
1851 – 242 inhabitants
1871 – 221 inhabitants
1901 – 257 inhabitants
1931 – 233 inhabitants
1951 – 239 inhabitants
1971 – 174 inhabitants
1981 – 145 inhabitants

Rushford

1086 – 8 recorded
1327 – 8 taxpayers paid 11s. 10d.

* '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 Barnham and Fakenham Parva 1831)

Fakenham Parva: Curacy

1254	Not recorded	
1291	Valued £3 13s. 4d.	
	Portion of Priory of St. Denys, nr. Southampton	£1
		<u>£4 13s. 4d.</u>
1341	Valued £3 8s. 4d.	
1531	Valued £13 7s. 9d. (includes Euston)	
1739	Consolidated with Euston	

Euston

1254	Valued £3 6s. 8d.	
	Portion of Master C. of Leleseya	10s.
		<u>£3 16s. 8d.</u>

1291 Valued £8
Portion of Chapel of Leleseya 6s. 8d. £8 6s. 8d.

1341 Valued £8 12s.

1535 Valued £13 7s. 9d. (includes Fakenham Parva)

1662 Parsonage house has 4 hearths

c.1676 New rectory house built in gardens of Euston Hall, later removed to building formerly used as hostel for overflow of guests.

1739 Consolidated with Fakenham Parva

1831 1 curate, stipend £100 p.a. Glebe house. Joint gross income £676 p.a.

1844 Tithes commuted for £29612s. 6d. p.a.

1912 Joint nett value £510 p.a. 101 acres glebe land and residence

Patrons: Duke of Grafton (1831–)

11. Church **St. Genevieve**
(Chancel, S. chapel, W. tower)
Note: stands within Euston Park

Med. Outer walls and lower portion of tower
1676 Remainder built by Henry Bennet, Earl of Arlington

Seats: 100 appropriated, 130 free (1873)

Fakenham Parva **St Andrew**

1086 Fakenham: 2 churches plus 40 acres, 1 plough, ½ acre meadow

1668 Report to Bishop of Norwich states that the parish has 'neither church, chapel or place of worship' (Manors of Suffolk by Copinger)

1739 Parish consolidated with Euston
Site known – had disappeared by 1739

12. Nonconformity etc:

c.1578 Mr Hookwood described as excommunicated for Papistrie

1606 16 recusant papists (6 from Rookwood family)
1 person negligent in attending church for 2 – 3 years

1611 6 recusant papists (again 4 from Rookwood family)

13. Manorial:

1066/1086 1 carucate of land was held by Adelund from the Abbot of St. Edmunds. Not stated to have been a manor.

Euston Manor al Little Hall or Verleys

Late 11th cent.

Robert de Verley owns

13th cent. William de Verley held 6 parts of a fee of William Bardolf of the Honor of Wyrenengeye

1272 Philip, Lord Bassett died seised

1349 Inquis p.m. of William de Pateshull

Late 14th cent.

Rokewode/Rookwood family owns (linked to Acton, Stoke by Nayland, Preston and Stanningfield)

1427 Thomas Beaufort, Duke of Exeter owns

1458 Rogert Rokewood owns

1655 Sir George Fielding, Earl of Desmond owns

1665 Sir Henry Bennett owns (created Earl of Arlington – 1672)

1670's Duke of Grafton owns with whom it remains (linked to Great Fakenham, Honington and Sapiston)

Possible Sub-Manor:

Cockfield Hall

Little known

Fakenham Parva

1329 Inquis p.m. of Comyn family

1458 James Staunton owns

1668 Lord Arlington owns (annexed to Euston)

1670's Duke of Grafton owns (incorporated into Euston Park)

14. Markets/Fairs:

15. Real property:

1844 £1,592 rental value (Euston)

£500 rental value (Rushford)

1891 £2,518 rateable value (Euston)

£1,398 rateable value (Rushford)

1912 £2,963 rateable value (Euston)

Rushford not recorded

16. Land ownership:

1844–1912 Duke of Grafton sole owner

17. Resident gentry:

1674 Lord Arlington has house with 42 hearths

1679 Henry Bennet, Earl of Arlington and Sir Drue Drury

1844	Duke of Grafton, Lord Charles Fitzroy MP and Rev. J. D. Hustler MA
1891	Duke of Grafton
1912	General the Duke of Grafton

18. Occupations:

1500–1549	1 yeoman
1550–1599	2 yeomen
1600–1649	1 yeoman, 2 husbandmen, 1 clerk, 1 labourer
1650–1699	1 rector, 1 carpenter, 1 spinster None recorded for Fakenham Parva
1831	43 in agriculture, 7 in retail trade, 1 professional, 14 in domestic service, 1 other
1844	Land agent, house steward, 2 farmers, victualler, gardener, park keeper, stud groom. Rushford: 2 farmers
1912	Sub-postmaster, police officer, schoolmistress, head gamekeeper, farm bailiff, 2 farmers, land agent, head gardener

19. Education:

1818	Dames school (18 attend), 1 Sunday school (16 attend)
1833	1 daily school (16 attend) plus Sunday school
1844	School supported by rector
1891	School supported by Duke of Grafton and rector
1912	Public Elementary school rebuilt by Duke of Grafton, average attendance 24.

20. Poor relief:

1776	£37 12s. 8d.
1803	£72 4s. 9d.
1818	£205 3s.
1830	£149 12s.
1832	£158 5s.
1834	£147 9s.

21. Charities:

22. Other institutions:

1472	Rushford: Guild of St John Evangelist
1891	Police constable listed

23. Recreation:

1844	The Fox public house
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24. Personal:

Most Noble George H. FitzRoy K.G., Duke of Grafton, Earl of Arlington, Earl of Euston, Viscount Thetford, Viscount Ipswich, Baron Arlington, and Baron Sudbury 1760–1844, Lord Lieut., Vice Admiral and Custos Rotulorus of Suffolk and hereditary Ranger of Whittlebury Forest, Northamptonshire.

Duke of Grafton hereditary receivers-general of the profits of the seals in the Court of Queen's Bench and Common Pleas till its abolition in 1845 when it was substituted by a pension.

'Thomas Walpole's Letters to the Duke of Grafton on American Affairs 1776–1778' by R.W. VanAlystne, 1966.

'Letters of Charles O'Hare to the Duke of Grafton 1780–1781,' edited by G.C. Rogers and contained in 'The South Carolina Historical Magazine, 1964.

'The Royal FitzRois, Dukes of Grafton through Four Centuries' by B. Falk 1950.

'Henry Duke of Grafton 1663–1690,' by Sir Almeric FitzRoy 1921 (2nd son of Charles II by Barbara Villiers).

'Autobiography and Political Correspondence of Augustus Henry, Third Duke of Grafton,' edited by Sir W.R. Anson 1898.

25. Other information:

Euston Hall: Originally built 1666–70 for 1st Earl of Arlington. Radically rebuilt 1750–56, part destroyed by fire 1902. Ceilings by Verrio were just one item lost at this time. Rebuilding 1912 and some demolition of parts fire damaged 1950's. West and South wings were removed.

'Euston Hall' booklet 1975. Euston Hall opened its doors to the public 1975.

'Euston Hall,' by A. Oswald 1957.

Courtyard remodelled by Matthew Brettingham c.1755.

Euston Park: Deer park 1677 had pale 9 miles in compass. Park approx. 1,400 acres, described as richly wooded and stocked with 700 head of deer 1844. Disparked pre 1867.

Within park stands the 'Temple' built by 2nd Duke of Grafton 1746 in Grecian style. Intended as banqueting house.

Landscaped by John Evelyn, William Kent and Capability Brown c.1740.

Licence to enpark 1667.

Fakenham Wood: covers 314 acres, believed one of the largest in the country. Countryside round Euston celebrated in the poem 'Farmers Boy,' by R. Bloomfield.

Queen Elizabeth I lodged at Euston Hall, immediately after which Mr

Rookwood (her host) was ordered to attend Court at Norwich and was committed to prison 1578.

Royalty again entertained at Euston Hall 1670.

'A Short History of Euston,' mainly the history of the Dukes of Grafton.
'House Hunt,' Suffolk Fair, Sept. 1973 p.24.

Extract from H.M.C. report on manuscript of Duke of Portland and Euston Hall 1737–1738 in Record Office.

Grafton papers in Record Office.

Small red brick 'ecclesiastically' styled building near to the river was a water pumping station 1935.

Plans were put forward to establish a Scandinavian-style holiday village at Warren Wood 1987 which created much protest from villagers and conservation groups.

Park House: former rectory, 16th cent. building. Grade II listed.

Rushford: Brief history of parish contained in 'History of Norfolk,' Vol. 1 by F. Blomefield 1805.

Fakenham Parva: Plan 1836, maps 1586 and 1610 are in existence 9 parishes converge at site of shrunken mere at Rymer Point creating unusual radial effect (SW sector of Euston parish).