

1. Parish: Finningham

Meaning: Fina's people (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) loses part to Cotton
Hartismere Petty Sessional Division
Stowmarket County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,257 (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:	4 course system: wheat, barley, clover, roots
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

1804 89 acres enclosed under Private Acts of Lands (1802)

7. Settlement:

1958 Compact settlement with centralized church.
Development in square pattern.
Scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 33, 1801 – 47, 1851 – 119, 1871 – 110,
1901 – 86, 1951 – 106, 1981 – 102

8. Communications:

Road: Roads to Gislingham, Westhorpe, Wickham Skeith and
Walsham le Willows

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

9. Population:

1086 — 37½ recorded
1327 — 30 taxpayers paid £2. 14s.
1524 — 11 taxpayers paid £2. 7s.
1603 — 69 adults
1674 — 45 households
1676 — 142 adults recorded
1801 — 373 inhabitants
1831 — 497 inhabitants
1851 — 571 inhabitants
1871 — 431 inhabitants
1901 — 353 inhabitants
1931 — 327 inhabitants
1951 — 327 inhabitants
1971 — 270 inhabitants
1981 — 297 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254 Valued £5
1291 Valued £8
1535 Valued £10. 10s. 5d.
Rectory built (1791)
1831 Glebe house. Gross income £350 p.a.
Rent charge of £450. 12s. 6d. in lieu of tithes (1840)
Residence near church (1855)
Old rectory house taken down and new building erected
(1906)
1912 Nett value £280. 26 acres glebe and residence.

Patrons:

Edmund Cotton (1603), Rt Hon. J.H. Frere (1831), G.E. Frere (1855), J.T.
Frere (1912)

11. Church **St. Bartholomew**
(Chancel, nave, north and south porches, W. embattled tower)

1086 Church + 26 acres land, valued 4s.
14th cent. S. doorway, W. tower
15th cent. N. porch, stoup inside nave
1886/89 Restoration
Modern western gallery in nave

Seats: 210 (1855)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1644 Warrant issued for ejection of Rector by Suffolk
Committee for Scandalous Ministers
1676 2 nonconformists
2 houses set aside for worship (1816, 1835)
Primitive Methodists chapel built (1879)

13. Manorial:

Finningham Hall/Conyers

1239 Conyers family own (view of frankpledge and assize of
bread and beer claimed)
1660 Sold to John Frere in which family it remained (1909)

Sub-Manors:

Necton Hall/Norton Hall

1086 Lands of the abbey of St. Edmund
1480 Sir Robert Conyers owns (absorbed by main manor)

14. Markets/Fairs

Fair for toys and lean cattle held on September 4th (1805)
Pedlary Fair held on September 4th and 5th, obsolete
(1891)
Parish held court of 'pie poudre' (18th cent.)
Note: 'Pie poudre': court of "piepowders" – a summary
court formerly held at fairs and markets to
administer justice among itinerant dealers etc.
Piepowder = wayfarer/itinerant merchant

15. Real property:

1844 £1,918 rental value
1891 £2,122 rateable value

1912 £1,895 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844 Rt. Hon. J. Hookam Frer, principle owner
1891 J.T Frere, principle owner
1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

1844 John Frere, High Sheriff of Suffolk (1776)
Rev. W. Hepworth M.A.

18. Occupations:

1500-1549 2 husbandmen, 1 yeoman, 1 tailor
1550-1599 5 husbandmen, 5 yeomen, 1 carver, 1 locksmith, 1 weaver, 1 wheelwright
1600-1649 4 husbandmen, 3 carpenters, 1 cooper, 6 yeomen, 1 linen weaver, 1 glover, 1 labourer
1650-1699 3 husbandmen, 3 yeomen, 1 tailor, 1 worsted weaver, 1 spinster, 2 millers, 1 glover, 1 wheelwright, 1 chirurgion (surgeon)
1831 53 in agriculture, 27 in retail trade, 3 professionals, 6 in labouring, 23 in domestic service, 10 others
1844 3 shoemakers, victualler, schoolmaster, gardener, tailor, currier, excise officer, saddler, carpenter, 2 grocers, draper, wheelwright/blacksmith, miller, baker, butcher, 12 farmers
1912 Sub-postmaster, 10 farmers, saddler and harness maker, 2 beer retailers, baker, 2 grocer/drapers, blacksmith, carpenter, basket maker, dressmaker, publican, shopkeeper

19. Education:

1818 £2. 10s. p.a. endowed to teach 4 girls and £4 p.a. to teach boys
2 daily schools (42 attend)
1 Sunday school (48 attend)
1833 1 part endowed school (55 attend)
2 daily schools (1 with boarding facilities) (41 attend)
1 Sunday school (85 attend)
Public Elementary school (1874), average attendance (1912) 71

20. Poor relief:

1776 £100. 0s. 1d. spent on poor relief
1803 £231. 3s. 1½d. spent on poor relief
1818 £279. 18s. spent on poor relief

1830	£720. 8s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£801. 4s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£662. 10s.	spent on poor relief

21. Charities:

Town Estate:

1840 Approximately 2 acres 1R and property including former workhouse (occupied by poor persons) let at £7. 12s. p.a. applied to church repairs and poor relief.

General Charities:

1728/66 Ann Frere: 10s. p.a. for bread, 40s p.a. for shifts.
 Susan Edwards: 50s p.a. for education, 20s p.a. for poor at Christmas and Whit Sunday
 Eleanor Frere: £4 p.a. for education and 4 coats, £2. 5s. for meat and 15s. p.a. for bread.

22. Other institutions:

1840 Former workhouse in existence
 Guildhall in existence

23. Recreation:

1844 The white Horse public house
 1891 The White Horse and The Black Horse public houses
 1912 2 beer retailers, The White Horse public house

24. Personal:

John Frere: MP for Ipswich (1799)
 J.H. Frere: envoy to Spain (1800-08)
 Sir H. Bartle Frere: Governor of India, attaché to South Africa (circa 1880's)

25. Other information:

Old Guildhall (Mill Street) with tie-beams on arched braces and carrying king posts.

Village sign erected (1984).

Archaeological Sites

Med. moated sites (CRN 5529, 5531, 5532)
 Circular enclosure (CRN 5530)

Stray finds: B.A. arrowhead (CRN 5524)
 Rom. Coin (CRN 5525)
 PMed coin (CRN 5526)
 Med. pottery (CRN 5528)
 I.A. spearhead (CRN 5533)
Scatter finds: Sax. Pottery (CRN 5527)
 Rom. Pottery (CRN 7513)
 PMed Pottery (CRN 7514)