1. Parish: Fritton

Meaning: Enclosed place/fenced in homestead (Ekwall)


Deanery: Lothingland

Union: Mutford and Lothingland


Other administrative details:

Mutford and Lothingland Petty Sessional Division
Lowestoft County Court District

3. Area: 1,420 acres land, 53 acres water, 17 acres tidal, 71 acres foreshore (1912)

4. Soils:

Mixed: a) Deep well drained sandy soils, some very acid especially under heath and woodland, risk wind erosion

b) Deep stoneless mainly calcareous clay soils, flat land adjacent to river, risk of flooding

5. Types of farming:

1086 Wood for 20 pigs, 2 cobs, 8 cattle, 16 pigs, 160 sheep, 3 goats, 3 beehives, formerly 1 salt house

1500–1640 Thirsk: Sheep corn region, where sheep are main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop. Also has similarities with wood-pasture region with pasture, meadow, dairying and some pig-keeping.

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, roots, hay
1969  Trist: More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

   1814  230 acres enclosed under Private Acts of Land 1809

7. **Settlement:**

   Complete maps available – see Norfolk Record Office for details.

   **Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 16, 1801 – 21, 1851 – 47, 1871 – 50, 1901 – 65, 1951 – 78, 1981 – see Norfolk

8. **Communications:**

   **Road:** Turnpike road crosses parish (18/19th cent.)
   **Rail:** 1891 ½ mile St. Olaves station: Southtown (Yarmouth) – Beccles line, opened (1859), station closed (1959)
   **Water:** River Waveney: Act passed to make Waveney navigable (1670), decline marked by beginning of rail travel (1852)

9. **Population:**

   1086 — 16 recorded (includes Domesday vill of Caldecott)
   1327 — 12 taxpayers paid £1. 4s. 9d.
   1524 — 11 taxpayers paid 12s.
   1603 — 63 adults
   1674 — 21 households
   1676 — Not recorded
   1801 — 174 inhabitants
   1831 — 170 inhabitants
   1851 — 215 inhabitants
   1871 — 221 inhabitants
   1901 — 270 inhabitants
   1931 — 230 inhabitants
   1951 — 239 inhabitants
   1971 — 225 inhabitants
   1981 — See Norfolk

10. **Benefice:** *Rectory (1831) Discharged Rectory (1891)*

    1254  Valued £5. 6s. 8d.
    1291  Valued £6. 13s. 4d.
1535 Valued £6. 15s. 4d.  
Parsonage house has 3 hearths (1674)

1831 Glebe house unfit for occupation, gross income £267 p.a.  
Incumbent also holds Vicarage of Thraston, Norfolk

Rectory house built (1884)

1912 Average nett value £135 p.a. 10 acres glebe and residence

Patrons:

Agetha Fretton (1306), FitzOsbern family (1318-32), Mauteby family (1349-89), Simon Felbrigg (1425-30), Paston family (1445-1563), William Sydnor (1585-1624), Talbot family (1640), Thomas Allin (1674/75), Clarke family (1720-27), Burkin Family (1731-42), Sarah Allin (1767), Catherine Buckle (1788), T. Hoves (1831), Rev. F.W. Cubitt (1844), Mrs. Cubitt (1891), Major F.A. Cubitt (1912)

11. Church  
St. Edmund (thatched)  
(apsidal church, nave, north porch, south porch, round west tower)

Norman Chancel and tower  
1350 Nave extended from 11’ to 21’  
Note: Chancel is tunnel-vaulted and vaulted apse.  
Above chancel is space used (1838/48) by smugglers for stowage of contraband including rum

1855 Restoration

Seats: 150 (1912)

12. Nonconformity etc:

13. Manorial:

1066 Manor of 2 carucates held by Godwin, a free man under patronage of Gyrth

1086 Manor of 2 carucates belonging to the King

Domesday vill of Caldecott

1066 Manor of 1 carucate held by Bondi under patronage of Gyrth

1086 Manor of 1 carucate belonging to Ralph the Crossbowman

Fritton al Fritton Paston's

13th cent. Nicholas de Freton owns
1306 Roger FitzPeter FitzOsborn died seised (linked to Herringfleet)
1349 Sir Robert de Mauteby/Maulteby owns
1568 John Throgmorten owns
Conveyed to William Sydnor (linked to Henstead and Blundeston)
Circa 1613 William Tompson owns
1651 William Heveningham owns (linked to Blundeston and Lound)
1668 Thomas Allin owns (linked to Ashby, Belton, Blundeston, Bradwell, Carlton Colville, Corton, Flixton, Somerleyton, Mutford, Lound and Gorleston)
1710 Samuel Fuller owns
1819 A.G. Johnston owns
1830 Francis Turner owns
1896 Rt. Hon. Sir Saville Brinton Crossley owns
1909 Col. Henry Edmund Buxton owns

Sub-Manors:

Caldecot Hall

1270 Henry Caldecot owns (linked to Onehouse)
1390 Sir John Falstof owns (linked to Flixton)
1814 Magdalen College, Oxford owns
1909 Rt. Hon. Sir Saville Brinton Crossley owns (absorbed by main manor)

14. Markets/Fairs

Grant of market and fair to Henry Caldecot (1269/70)

15. Real property:

1844 £1,441 rental value
1891 £1,894 rateable value
1912 £2,077 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844-1912 Land sub-divided

17. Resident gentry:

1844 Richard Rust D'Eye and Rev. F.W. Cubitt
1891 H.E. Buxton JP and G.J. Larkman JP

18. Occupations:

1550–1599 1 husbandman, 1 tailor, 1 yeoman
1600–1649 6 husbandmen
1650–1699 1 husbandman, 2 yeomen
1831 36 in agriculture, 10 in retail trade, 2 in labouring, 4 in domestic service
1844 Wheelwright, cattle dealer/beerhouse keeper, baker/shopkeeper, beerhouse keeper, 7 farmers
1912 Sub-postmaster, schoolmistress, 2 shopkeepers, 4 farmers, 2 beer retailers, market gardener

19. Education:
1818 1 Sunday school (26 attend)
1833 1 day and Sunday school (12 girls attend)
National school built (circa 1850), 45 attend 91891), enlarged (1895), average attendance (1912) 46

20. Poor relief:
1776 £27. 10s. 1d. spent on poor relief
1803 £39. 4s. 5d. spent on poor relief
1818 £41. 5s. spent on poor relief
1830 £75. 12s. spent on poor relief
1832 £82. 10s. spent on poor relief
1834 £115. spent on poor relief

21. Charities:
Poors Allotment:
1840 Allotment of 14 acres 2R 38P let at £12. 12s. p.a. applied to purchase of coals for poor in winter.

22. Other institutions:

23. Recreation:
1844-1912 2 beerhouses/retailers

24. Personal:

25. Other information:
Fritton Decoy: fresh water lake 2 miles long and in some places ¼ mile wide.
Account rolls (1317/18) shows that in Fritton 67% of manorial income was gained from the extraction of peat (turbary), produced 1.2 million sods of peat. Suffolk Landscape by N. Scarfe. These can be used as accurate assessor of date for creation of Fritton Lake.
Local tradition has an alternative name for Fritton Lake as ‘Gunhilde’s Mere’.
Fritton Old Hall and Lake: open to the public for leisure pursuits and water sports (20th cent.), consisted of 73 acres 3R 9P and lake of 17 acres (1851).
Engraving of Fritton Church and plan by John Neale (1846) reproduced in History and Antiquities of the County of Suffolk by Rev. A. Suckling.
Engraving of church interior by John Weale (1846) also reproduced in above.

**Archaeological Sites**

See Norfolk.