

# 1. Parish : Hepworth

**Meaning:** Hedge where hips grow

**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:

Blackbourn Petty Sessional Division  
Thetford County Court District

**3. Area:** 1,693 acres (1912)

**4. Soils:**

Slowly permeable seasonally water-logged fine loam over clay

**5. Types of farming:**

1086		4½ acres meadow, wood for 6 pigs
1283		287 quarters to crops (2,296 bushels), 68 head horses, 224 cattle, 234 pigs, 256 sheep*
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 in preparation for corn products
1937	Main crops:	4 course system
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.
1975	Aspen Hall	vineyard

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

**6. Enclosure:**

1817 291 acres enclosed under Private Act of Lands 1815

**7. Settlement:**

1958 Small but well spaced development between N. and S. common. Line of main Bury St. Edmunds–Norwich road crosses parish W–E to south of main settlement. Church centrally situated. Scattered farms.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 30, 1801 – 66, 1851 – 110, 1871 – 140, 1901 – 107, 1951 – 119, 1981 – 170

**8. Communications:**

**Roads:** To Barningham, Wattisfield, Walsham le Willows, Stanton and Thelnetham.  
Causeway Book 1642–1701  
1891:Carrier to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday  
1912:Carrier to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday, other carriers pass through lower end of village on Wednesday and Saturday

**9. Population:**

1086 – 32½ recorded  
1327 – 35 taxpayers paid £3 10s. 4d.  
1524 – membrane either missing or illegible  
1603 – 139 adults  
1662 – 44 householders paid £5 3s.  
1674 – 51 households  
1676 – 223 adults  
1801 – 449 inhabitants  
1831 – 542 inhabitants  
1851 – 582 inhabitants  
1871 – 614 inhabitants  
1901 – 392 inhabitants  
1931 – 394 inhabitants  
1951 – 379 inhabitants  
1971 – 409 inhabitants  
1981 – 510 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 1831, Discharged Rectory 1844**

1254 Valued £12  
1291 Valued £13 6s. 8d.  
1341 Valued £13 10s.  
1535 Valued £13 17s. 2½d.

1662	Parsonage has 3 hearths
1831	Glebe house. Gross income £498 p.a.
1835	Valued £498
1845	Rent charge of £544 7s. 4d. in lieu of tithes. Rectory house and 41 acres 3R 34P glebe
1887	40 acres glebe, gross income £66 6s. 8d. Rent charge of £544 7s. 4d. in lieu of tithes
1891	39 acres glebe with residence
1912	Nett value £360 p.a. 40 acres glebe and residence

**Patrons:**

1333	W. de Neketon, J. Thorald, Sir O.Wyth
1349	W. de Neketon
1356	O. de Wythe
1389	H. Spencer
1401	N. Conyers
1420	N. Conyers and R. Ashfield
1459	R. Conyers, W. Calthorpe and R. Ashfield
1499	F. Ashfield
1505	E. Calthorpe
1544	R. Ashfield
1559	E. Cotton
1579	Sir R. Jermyn
1672	N. Burrell
1761	Incumbent
1797–	Provost and Scholars of Kings College, Cambridge

**11. Church**      **St. Peter**  
(Chancel, nave, S. porch, W. tower)

1086	Church plus 15 acres free land in alms
Norman	Fragments in porch
13 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Lower part of tower suspected
14 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Main structure
1672	Rebuilding commenced on the west tower
1756	Gallery built
1898	Church burned down
1899	Rebuilt and restored

**Seats:** 94 appropriated, 238 free (1873)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

1606	1 person negligent in receiving communion
1676	37 nonconformists
1709–1817	2 houses set aside for worship
No dates	Primitive Methodist Chapel

### 13. **Manorial:**

13<sup>th</sup> cent. Berard de Hepeworth owns  
c.1376 Manor divided becoming

#### **Riveshall al Rushall al Reeves**

14<sup>th</sup> cent. Sir Henry de Riveshall owns  
1420 Sibella Calthorpe owns  
1457 Sir William Calthorpe inherits (linked to Erwarton, Ampton and Pakenham)  
1567 William Spring of Cockfield owns (linked to Kedington)  
1579 Sir Robert Jermyn owns (linked to Gt. Waldingfield, Preston, Bradfield St. George, Rushbrooke, Gt. and Lt. Whelnetham)  
1620 John Shawberry owns  
1753 Henry Ord owns  
1795 John Sparke owns  
1833 Thomas Thornhill owns (linked to Hopton and Knettishall)

#### **North Hall**

14<sup>th</sup> cent. Giles de Neketon owns  
1363 Consisted of East chamber in capital messuage, the Little Grange, 40 acres land, 10 acres wood  
Late 15<sup>th</sup> cent. Thomas Conyers owns  
16<sup>th</sup> cent. Audrie Cotton owns  
1670 Richard Keeble owns  
1703 Robert Hammond owns  
1723 Martin Nunn owns  
1815 John Sparke of Walsham le Willows owns (annexed to main manor)  
1857 Edward Freestone owns

#### **Sub-manors:**

##### **Master Stephens**

1303 Thomas de Stanton held  
c.1375 Robert Ashfield owns (linked to Hunston and Norton)  
1569 Sir Ambrose Jermyn owns (absorbed by main manor by 1579) (linked to Wattisfield)

##### **Bretts**

c.1283 Adam le Bret owns  
15<sup>th</sup> cent. Conyers family owns (probably absorbed by North Hall)  
1552 John Marshall owns  
1572 Conveyed to the Guildhall Feoffoes, Bury St. Edmunds

'The Rise and Devolution of the Manors of Hepworth', by W.J. Corbett and T. Tindal Methold. PSIA Vol.X, p.19 and 125.

**14. Markets/Fairs:**

c.1844 Market for sale of cattle and swine established and held on Tuesday at Marlborough Inn, obsolete by 1891

**15. Real property:**

1844 £2,226 rental value  
1891 £2,356 rateable value  
1912 £1,725 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844/1891 Land sub-divided  
1912 Thomas T. Methold, principal owner

**17. Resident gentry:**

1844 Rev. E.R. Payne  
1891 Rev. W.C. Green MA and Thomas T. Methold  
1912 Thomas T. Methold BA, JP

**18. Occupations:**

1550–1599 3 yeomen, 3 husbandmen, 1 parson  
1600–1649 10 yeomen, 3 carpenters, 1 blacksmith, 4 husbandmen, 2 labourers, 1 tailor, 2 linen weavers  
1650–1699 14 yeomen, 1 husbandman, 1 weaver, 1 labourer, 2 clerks, 2 spinsters, 2 linen weavers  
1831 95 in agriculture, 13 in retail trade, 1 professional, 9 in labouring, 14 in domestic service, 10 others  
1844 Maltster/corn merchant, shopkeeper, victualler, 2 beerhouse keepers, wheelwright, grocer/draper/butcher, blacksmith, 11 farmers  
1912 Sub-postmistress, schoolmistress, blacksmith, 20 farmers, 2 farm bailiffs, 2 beer retailers, thatcher, publican, carrier, cabinet maker, shopkeeper, boot dealer/draper/grocer/pork butcher, draper, china and glass dealer, boot maker/assistant overseer

**19. Education:**

1818 1 day school for girls (8 attend), 1 Sunday school  
1833 1 girls schools (16 attend), 1 daily school (20 attend), 2 Sunday schools (20–30 attend)  
1852 National school built, enlarged 1872 and 1896, 70 attend (1891), average attendance 1912 64. Threatened with closure 1980 – proposed transfer to Hopton school.

However still in being 1988. 18 pupils attend 1986. Due to close July 1988.

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£88 5s. 8d.
1803	£455 3s. 1½d.
1818	£787 17s.
1830	£580 4s.
1832	£575 5s.
1834	£574 3s.

**21. Charities:**

**Town Estate/Asty's and Brundish's Gifts:**

c.1792	Comprises messuage and 44 acres (17 acres old enclosure, 27 acres allotments awarded at enclosure 1817), let at £63 p.a. £1 17s. to church repairs, £1 7s. to purchase of cloth for 6 poor housekeepers, £1 for purchase of coats/waistcoats/other clothing for distribution at Christmas to the labouring poor. Residue to general relief and support of poor.
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**Asty's and Reeve's Benefactions:**

17 <sup>th</sup> cent.	of William Asty, Catherine Asty and John Reeve: Messuage called Ringbells and ½ acre land to poor persons at £1 p.a.
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**Poors Estate:**

1840	Allotment of 14 acres 0R 23P let at £34. 11s. applied to purchase and distribution of fuel to poor
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**22. Other institutions:**

1796/98	Workhouse accounts
1818	Coal Club

**23. Recreation:**

1844	The Duke of Marlborough public house, 2 beerhouses
1891	2 beerhouses, The Marlborough Inn public house
1912	2 beer retailers, The Duke of Marlborough public house, temporarily closed 1984 due to fire
c.1947	Stanton and Hepworth Scout Group established

**24. Personal:**

**25. Other information:**

Blackbourn Gazette 1976–1985.

'The Parish of Hepworth and its Rectors' by T.T. Methold. PSIA Vol. VIII, p.380 (corrections in PSIA Vol. XVIII, p.66).

Rectory: moated with access via footbridge 1819.

Photocopy map 1741 in parish folder.

Reeves Hall: centre for dyslexic children 1977.

Village sign erected 1970.

1 case of incendiarism due to agrarian unrest 1844.