

1. Parish : Hunston

Meaning: The huntsman's homestead/village/enclosure

2. Hundred: Blackbourn

Deanery: Blackburne (–1884), Thedwastre (1884–1972), Lavenham (1972–)

Union: Stow

RDC/UDC: (W. Suffolk) Thedwastre RD (–1974), Mid Suffolk DC (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Blackbourn Petty Sessional Division
Bury St Edmunds County Court District

3. Area: 960 acres (1912)

4. Soils:

Mixed: a) Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay
b) Deep well drained fine loam, coarse loam and sandy soils, locally flinty and in places over gravel. Slight risk water erosion
c) Stoneless clay soils mostly over peat, affected by groundwater and risk of localized flooding near river.

5. Types of farming:

1086		10 acres meadow, wood for 12 pigs
1283		164 quarters to crops (1,312 bushels), 22 head horse, 71 cattle, 45 pigs, 99 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:	Wheat, barley, oats, turnips
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

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

6. Enclosure:

1814 70 acres enclosed under Private Act of Lands 1811

7. Settlement:

1978 Very small development on Stowlangtoft – Badwell Ash road. Church situated separately to south. Secondary settlement Hunston Green. Few scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 17, 1801 – 21, 1851 – 34, 1871 – 32, 1901 – 29, 1951 – 32, 1981 – 38

8. Communications:

Roads: Road to Langham, Badwell Ash, Norton and Stowlangtoft

Rail: 1891 3 ½ miles Elmswell Station:
Bury St Edmunds –Cambridge line opened
1846, closed for goods 1964, became
unmanned halt 1967

9. Population:

1086 – 13 recorded
1327 – 15 taxpayers paid £1 10s. 10d.
1524 – membrane either missing or illegible
1603 – 60 adults
1662 – 11 householders and 6 poor paid £5. 9s.*
1674 – 21 households
1676 – 71 adults
1801 – 143 inhabitants
1831 – 185 inhabitants
1851 – 142 inhabitants
1871 – 158 inhabitants
1901 – 127 inhabitants
1931 – 99 inhabitants
1951 – 113 inhabitants
1971 – 125 inhabitants
1981 – 116 inhabitants

* 'The Hearth Tax Return for the Hundred of Blackbourn 1662', transcribed by S. Colman. PSIA Vol. XXXII part 2, p.168.

10. Benefice: Donative (1603), Perpetual Curacy (1831), Vicarage Vicarage (1891)

1235 Rectory appropriated to Ixworth Priory
1254 Valued £5. 6s. 8d.
1291 Valued £5. 6s. 8d.

1341 Valued £7. 14s. 2d.
 1535 Ixworth Priory provides priest, valued 7s.
 1603 Stipend of £20 p.a.
 1831 1 curate, stipend £47 p.a. No glebe house, gross income £55 p.a. Incumbent also holds Rectory of Bradfield Combust.
 Rent charge of £225. 15s. in lieu of tithes, 16 acres glebe, gross income £28. (1887)
 1912 Nett value £90 p.a. 16 acres glebe. Incumbent also holds Badwell Ash.

Patrons: Mr. Asshilde (1603), H. Heigham (1831), Maj. C.H.J. Heigham (1871), Maj. C.J.M. Heigham (1912)

11. Church **St. Michael**
 (Chancel, nave, S. Transept, S. porch, W. turret)

1086 ½ church + 15 acres free land
 Norman Window (remains of) in NE corner of church
 12th cent. Chancel arch + other features
 13th cent. Main structure
 1472 Will leaves money for building of tower
 1882 Restoration

Seats: 34 appropriated, 116 free (1873)

12. Nonconformity etc:

circa 1670 James Waller ejected as minister and debarred from residence in parish. Licensed as Presbyterian teacher (1672) (d. 1697)
 1716 Hunston Hall set aside for worship

13. Manorial:

1316 William de Langham owns (linked to Langham) passing around the same time to the Prior of St. Mary at Ixworth
 1509 William Appulton owns
 1543 Robert Ashfield owns (linked to Hepworth and Norton)
 Late 16th cent. John Gyll owns
 circa 1642 Thomas Frost owns (linked to Langham)
 18th cent. John Lurkin owns
 Mid 18th cent. John Symonds Heigham owns
 1905 Major Clement J.M. Heigham owns

Sub-Manors

Nycols/Nicoll

Nothing known

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844	£986 rental value
1891	£1,097 rateable value
1912	£877 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844	J.H. Heigham, and Spenceley Ellis, principal owners
1891	Maj. C.H.J. Heigham and A. Maitland Wilson, principle owners
1912	Maj. C.H.J. Heigham and N.P. Turner, principle owners.

17. Resident gentry:

1674	Capt. Maltward
1679	Edmund Frost
1844	John. H. Heigham
1891	Lt. Col. H.A. Walford
1912	Maj. C.J.M. Heigham JP

18. Occupations:

1550–1599	2 husbandmen, 1 yeoman, 1 tailor
1600–1649	3 husbandmen, 8 yeomen
1650–1699	5 yeomen, 1 cordwainer
1831	28 in agriculture, 6 in retail trade, 2 professionals 22 in domestic service, 2 others
1844	Gamekeeper, shoemaker, cowkeeper, 2 farmers
1912	Bootmaker, 4 farmers, head gardener

19. Education:

1818	1 endowed school (3 instructed and clothed)
1833	1 endowed day and Sunday school supported by Mrs. Mary Pope (5 assisted places, 7 others)
1844	Schoolmistress paid £3. 15s. for teaching 6 children
1891/1912	Children attend Langham and Norton schools

20. Poor relief:

1776	£29 1s. 6d.
1803	£92 5s.
1818	£183. 8s.
1830	£204.
1832	£228. 5s.
1834	£144. 15s.

21. Charities:

Page's Charity:

1630 by indenture of Mary Page: 10 acres land called Denby's let at £11. 10s. p.a. to education and clothing of 3 poor children who on leaving school should each receive a copy of 'The Whole Duty of Man' + a Bible of a Prayer book. £2 to the minister for catechising children of the parish and 10s. for distribution among poor. Rents from land had risen to £15 p.a. (1891) £10 of which was paid to schoolmistress for teaching children of the parish

22. Other institutions:

23. Recreation:

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

Hunston Hall: suffered fire damage (1925). Moated site (no other information found)

Dairy Farm: burned to ground (1908)

Archaeological Sites:

Med. moated sites (CRN 6914)

Small ditched enclosure, probable windmill site (CRN 6915)

St. Michaels church (CRN 6917)

Stray find: Rom. glass vessel (CRN 6916)