

1. Parish : Ixworth

Meaning: Gycsa/Gicsa's soil

2. Hundred: Blackburn

Deanery: Blackburne (–1972), Thingoe (1972–)

Union: Thingoe (1836–1907), Bury St Edmunds (1907–1930)

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

Other administrative details:

Abolished ecclesiastically to create Ixworth with Ixworth Thorpe 1968

Blackbourn Petty Sessional Division

Bury St Edmunds County Court District

3. Area: 1,830 acres land (1912)

4. Soils:

- Mixed:**
- a. Shallow well drained calcareous coarse loam and sandy soils over chalk rubble. Slight risk water erosion
 - b. Deep well drained fine loam over clay, coarse loam over clay and fine loam soils some with calcareous clay subsoils
 - c. Deep permeable sand and peat soils affected by groundwater. Risk of winter flooding and wind erosion near river.
 - d. Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay

5. Types of farming:

1086 18 acres meadow, 2 mills, 1 cob, 5 cattle.

1283 22 pigs, 92 sheep, 3 arpents vines 1 park
409 quarters to crops (3,272 bushels), 39 head horse, 171 cattle, 2 pigs, 340 sheep*

1625 Great and little hempyards west of river

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. Also has similarities with sheep-corn region where sheep are main fertilising agent, bred for fattening, barley main cash crop

1818	Marshall:	Wide variations of crops 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, 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:

1625	Parish largely unenclosed
1810	330 acres enclosed in Thurston and Ixworth under Private Act of Lands 1803

7. Settlement:

1980 Large compact development mainly along line of main street which is also the main Bury St Edmunds–Norwich road. Church situated at southern end of street next to site of abbey. Development has also extended along the lines of the Stowlangtoft and Thetford roads. Blackbourn river crosses parish from N–S along line of parish boundary. Some scattered farms

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 74, 1801 – 133, 1851 – 229, 1871 – 245, 1901 – 222, 1951 – 258, 1981 – 456

8. Communications:

Roads: Formerly situated at junction of Peddars Way (Colchester–North Norfolk coast) and Roman Road (Bildeston–Holme-next-the-Sea). Later situated on Bury St Edmunds – Norwich Turnpike Road.
Tollgate situated near to bridge 17/18th cent. Situated at junction of A143 and A1088 Bury St Edmunds–Norwich and Ipswich–Thetford roads 20th cent.
Roads also to Stowlangtoft, Ixworth Thorpe and Honington, Stanton, Bardwell, Walsham le Willows and Pakenham.
1844: Coaches to London, Bury St Edmunds, Diss and Norwich daily to Yarmouth on Monday–Saturday to Bury St Edmunds on Monday, Wednesday and Friday

to Cambridge on Tuesday,
 Thursday, Saturday
 to Botesdale on Wednesday
 Mail cart to Bury St Edmunds daily
 Carriers to Ipswich on Monday,
 Thursday
 to Thetford on Wednesday
 and Saturday
 to Norwich and Bury St
 Edmunds on Wednesday and
 Saturday
 to London, Bury Sat Edmunds
 and Norwich on Tuesday and
 Thursday

1891 Carriers to Bury St Edmunds on
 Wednesday and Saturday
 Omnibus to Bury St Edmunds on
 Wednesday

1912 Carriers to Bury St Edmunds on
 Wednesday and Saturday
 to Thurston railway station
 daily

1987 A143 village by-pass built

Rail: 1891 4 miles Thurston station:
 Bury St Edmunds–Cambridge line opened
 1846, closed for goods 1964, became
 unmanned halt 1967

Water: River Blackbourn

9. Population:

1086 – 52 recorded
 1327 – 30 taxpayers paid £2 17s. 8d.
 1524 – 53 taxpayers paid £3 15s.
 1603 – 308 adults
 1662 – 70 householders paid £9 13s.*
 1674 – 112 households
 1676 – 311 adults
 1801 – 827 inhabitants
 1831 – 1,061 inhabitants
 1851 – 1,189 inhabitants
 1871 – 1,057 inhabitants
 1901 – 856 inhabitants
 1931 – 776 inhabitants
 1951 – 886 inhabitants
 1971 – 1,197 inhabitants
 1981 – 1,377 inhabitants

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

10. Benefice: Perpetual Curacy 1831, Vicarage 1891

1254	Valued £12
1291	Valued £13 6s. 8d. Portion of Ixworth in Langham 10s. <u>£13 16s. 8d.</u>
1341	Valued £16 15s. 4d.
1535	Valued £7 11s. 4d. (£7 16s. in lands of Priory of Ixworth)
1603	Stipend of £10 p.a. from William Webbe gent. (impropriator) Donative 1600
1831	No glebe house. Gross income £101 p.a.
1839	Parsonage house built
1887	Rent charge of £592 19s. 9d. in lieu of tithes. 31 acres 3R 16P glebe. Gross income £48 4s. 6d.
1891	Valued £100
1912	Nett value £129 p.a. 32 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: R.N. Cartwright (1831)

11. Church St. Mary

(Chancel, clerestoried nave, aisles, S. porch, W tower)

1086	Church and 80 acres free land, 1 plough, 1 acre meadow, value 5s.
14/15 th cent.	Main structure. Tower built c.1470/73
15 th cent.	Arched pier arcades to N. and S. aisles
16 th cent.	Nave roof
1855	N. aisle lengthened, restoration

Seats: 250 appropriated, 350 free (1873)

11a. Other Religious Institutions:

Ixworth Priory

Dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary

c.1170	Founded by Gilbert Blount for Austin Canons. William le Blund rebuilt the Priory and re-endowed it (it having been destroyed) on new site
1172	Canons introduced
1291	Valued £27 6s. 2½d. Income £82.
1381	16 canons recorded
1534	Prior John Jervys and 16 monks recorded 6 poor boys supported and educated at the Priory Valued £204 9s. 5½ d.
c.1535	Net income £168.
1537	Dissolved
1538	Lands granted to Richard Codyngton
1934	House occupies site of Priory, incorporates original crypt to priors hall. Slight remains and foundations in grounds.

Norman church was cruciform, chancel extended in 13th cent.
N. aisle added to nave 14th cent. Foundations visible.

12. Nonconformity etc:

1611	4 persons negligent in receiving communion
1676	4 nonconformists, 4 papists
1703–1847	7 houses set aside for worship
1831	Wesleyan chapel built, closed by 1891, new chapel built 1888
1854	Wesleyan Reformers Preaching Room established
1891	Primitive Methodist chapel recorded (no dates)
1964	'Ixworth Methodist Chapel' by J. Duncan

13. Manorial:

Thorpe By Ixworth

1066	Manor of 3 carucates held by Aki
	Manor of 200 acres held by Ketel, a free man
1086	Manor of 3 carucates belonging to Robert Blunt
	Manor of 200 acres belonging to Robert Blunt
1283	Extent: 546 acres arable land, 35 acres meadow, 20 acres pasture, 49 acres wood, 84 hens, mill, fishery, valued £32 8s. 1d.
–13 th cent.	Held by le Blund/Blunt family (linked to Langham, Sapiston, Ixworth Thorpe and Walsham le Willows) passing by inheritance to
13 th cent.	William Criketot (linked to (Langham, Sapiston, Ixworth Thorpe and Walsham le Willows)
14 th cent.	Rohesia de Pakenham owns (linked to Walsham le Willows)
1377	Ixworth Priory owns
1538	Richard Codington owns (linked to Santon Downham, Badwell Ash, Sapiston and Ixworth Thorpe)
1616	Sir John Carrell/Carrill owns (linked to Badwell Ash)
1630	Sir Garret Kemper owns
1674	Hon. Richard Fiennes, Viscount Saye died seised
Late 17 th cent.	Norton family owns
1905	Robert Norton Cartwright owns (linked to Falkenham)

14. Markets/Fairs:

	1985 excavations prove parish was thriving market centre in Roman period
1384	Charter for market and 2 fairs
1618	Weekly market held on Friday, long obsolete by 1844
1625	Street names in 1625 survey indicate original site of market at junction of Stow Lane with High Street. By 1625 it had been re-positioned to site opposite the Pickeril Inn

1759	Pleasure fair on Whit Monday
1792	Market on Friday
1844	2 fairs previously held on May Day and 18 th October now obsolete
	Fair on Whit Monday for pleasure
1885	Fair on Old May Day for pleasure
1891	Pleasure fair held on 13 th May. Obsolete by 1912
1912	Stock Show held Whit Monday and horticultural show at same time

15. Real property:

1844	£2,495 rental value
1891	£3,654 rateable value
1912	£3,277 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844	James Matthews & R.N. Cartwright, principal owners
1891	Mrs Matthew & Robert N. Cartwright, principal owners
1912	R.N. Cartwright, principal owner

17. Resident gentry:

1662	George Arney owner of property with 21 hearths
1679	Mr. Fines
1708	Richard Norton, High Sheriff of Suffolk
1844	N. Cartwright
1891	H.J. Death, Rev. F.D. Perott MA and F.M.H. Turner, JP
1912	George Blencowe, JP and Rev. G.R. Harrison MA

18. Occupations:

1500–1549	1 husbandman
1550–1599	1 labourer, 2 tailors, 6 husbandmen, 1 herdsman, 4 yeomen, 2 glovers, 1 weaver, 1 mercer, 1 wheelwright, 2 millers, 3 tanners, 1 shoemaker, 1 priest, 1 thatcher
1600–1649	2 labourers, 8 tailors, 1 glazier, 11 husbandmen, 1 blacksmith, 8 yeomen, 2 victuallers, 2 weavers, 1 mercer, 2 carpenters, 1 spinster, 1 shepherd, 1 miller, 1 clerk
1650–1699	2 labourers. 1 clerk, 4 tailors, 2 joiners, 1 blacksmith, 6 yeomen, 2 coopers, 1 inn holder, 2 grocers, 2 carpenters, 2 wheelwrights, 1 fellmonger, 3 butchers, 1 tanner, 2 clothiers, 1 surgeon
1831	134 in agriculture, 61 in retail trade, 12 professionals, 4 in labouring, 62 in domestic service, 15 others
1844	2 hawkers, wine/spirit merchant, cowkeeper, registrar, gamekeepers, 4 surgeons, 2 carpenters, excise officer, Inspector of weights and measures, fruiterer/thatcher, 3 solicitors, butler, 3 gardeners, police officer, clock/watchmaker, 2 academies, auctioneer, 4 bakers, 2

blacksmiths, 5 boot/shoemakers. 4 bricklayers, 3 butchers, 2 cabinet makers, chemist, 2 coopers, corn miller, 6 farmers, 2 dairy farmers, 5 stackings, 3 grocer/drapers, 2 hairdressers, 3 innkeepers, 3 beerhouse keepers, ironmonger, joiner, 7 milliners, 2 painter/plumber/glaziers, saddler, 2 straw hat makers, 3 tailors, wheelwright

1912 Public officers, 3 police officers, fire brigade (compliment of capt. and 4 men), schoolmaster, 3 solicitors, plumber, beer retailer, 2 publicans, accountant, cycle agent, blacksmith, florist, millwright, wine & spirit merchant, coal dealer/carrier, laundress, 4 bakers, tailor, private school proprietor, 4 farmers, 2 surgeons, plumber/painter, bootmaker, 2 grocers, antique dealer, chimney sweep, bricklayer, builders, architect, 2 builders, assistant overseer, gardener, hotel owner, chemist, shoemaker, painter, carrier, 2 watchmakers, shopkeeper, carrier/jobmaster, tax collector, dressmaker, grocer/drapper, blacksmith, vet, horse slaughterer, saddler/harness maker, relieving officer, butcher

20th cent. Mulleys Motorways Ltd. (bus contractor)

1919–1956 Cyder Factory at corner of Stowmarket Road owned by Greene King

19. Education:

1534 Poor boys educated at Priory

1818 2 endowed school (30/40 attend)
3 daily schools (72 attend), 2 Sunday schools (60 attend)

1833 6 daily schools (125 attend)

1840 National school built (Thetford Road), 80 attend, 1891
120 attend

1844 2 academies listed

1860 Public Elementary schools built, average attendance
1912 175. Closed 1969, sold 1978

1912 Cross House private school

c.1957 Ixworth Evening Institute established

1957–1971 Secondary Modern school built. Further Education Wing
built 1964, converted into Middle School 1971, 540 attend
1977

1969 New primary school built (Crown Lane) 147 attend 1977

20. Poor relief:

1776 £175 17s. 5d.

1803 £611 0s. 5¾d.

1818 £1,176 2s.

1830 £856 17s.

1832 £1,243 14s.

1834 £807 8s.

21. Charities:

Church and Poors Land:

1840 1 acre 2R let at £1 5s. p.a. 'applied to church repairs .
7 acres let at £6 p.a. distributed among 20 poor widows

Firmage's Charity:

1599 By will of William Firmage: 1 acre 2R 32P called Little
Seal Close, Rattlesden let at £1 5s. p.a. for poor people
of Ixworth. In 1840 had not been conveyed since 1721

Gardiner's and Webb's Charity:

c.1624 Bequests of Sir Robert Gardiner and Ann and William
Webb: £70 for purchase of land and property. Let at £4.
10s. p.a. (1840) paid to churchwardens

Groat Money:

1840 7 acres let at £1 p.a. for distribution among poor

Mrs Coddington's Gift:

1840 Customary donation of £5 and 2 loads of wood at 10s.
per load (origins unknown), distributed among widows
and poor persons at Christmas

Cooke's Charity:

1840 £7 10s. distributed among poor

Varey's Charity:

1789 by will of William Varey: £1,000 3% consols – dividends
(£15 in 1840) applied to distribution among working poor
not in receipt of alms and 2 proper persons for keeping
Sunday school

Goldsmith Bequest:

1885 by will of William Goldsmith: £4,000 bank annuities –
dividends distributed among poor

22. Other institutions:

1476 House used as Guildhall
1546 Guild of St. John receives 5s. p.a. from lands called St.
Johns Close

16 th cent.	Guild of Corpus Christi, St. John Baptist, St. Peter and St. Thomas of Canterbury
1625	Former Guildhall became Town House (east of churchyard)
1709	2 buildings called 'the Guildhall' divided into several dwellings to house the poor (6 women, 7 men). Used as workhouse (Rectory built on the site of)
1783	Building of Workhouse recorded, sold 1836, pulled down 1837
1844	Petty sessions held on alternate Mondays at Police Station 1891/1912 Lodge of Oldfellows belonging to Manchester Union Police officer listed
1870	Farmers Club established
1881–1887	Clothing and Coal Clubs
c.1883	Reading Room built, enlarged 1889, demolished 1977
1889	Church club formed, c.100 members
1891	Fire engine kept at bottom of High Street Parish room with library 2 Friendly Societies Lodge of Oldfellows Court of Ancient Order of Foresters held at the Pickeril Inn 3 police officers
1912	Fire Brigade (compliment of Capt. And 4 men) re-equipped 1956, moved to new premises 1960's/70's Farmers Club had become know as Ixworth and W. Suffolk Farmers Club and Chamber of Commerce at Bury St. Edmunds Assembly Rooms at the Pickeril Inn Ixworth, Ixworth Thorpe & Stanton Conservative and Unionist Association
20 th cent.	Village Hall Management Committee and Ixworth Association
1960's	Medical Centre built
1962	Blackbourn Court closed
1968	New police station built, former police station sold 1980

23. Recreation:

1533	The Pickeril first recorded
1600–1649	2 victuallers recorded
1674	Crown public house first recorded
1844	The Greyhound, The Pickeril, The Woolpack public houses, 3 beerhouses
1888	Football Club formed
1891	The Pickeril Commercial Hotel and Posting House, The Greyhound, The Crown public houses, 1 beerhouse
1912	Beer retailer, The Greyhound and The Crown (Thetford Road), public houses

	The Pickeril Hotel
20 th cent.	Bowling Club, Cricket Club, Tennis Club, Football Club Angling Club, Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Womens Institute, Conservative Association
1943	Royal British Legion established
1940's	Army Cadets formed
1981	Theobalds Restaurant opened

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

'Ixworth Abbey': incorporates buildings of Abbey founded 1170. E. dormitory range fairly complete. Undercroft has 13th cent. vaulting. Other rooms appear c.1230. Priors apartments 15th cent. Remodelling of buildings undertaken c.1600, 1700 and 1800. Last remodelling added Georgian N. and W. façade. Gatehouse once stood across moat to north.

Booklet 'Ixworth Abbey, A Short History and Simple Guide', by J. Rowe 1946.

Changes in street names:

Stow Lane – portion nearest High Street known as Old Street/Old Market

Thetford Road formerly Greyhound Lane

Crown Lane formerly Lincoln Lane or Limekiln Lane

Commister Land formerly Common Street, Pinner Lane or Paddocke Street.

Volumes of Ixworth Magazine Newsletter 1978–1986.

'Ixworth: A Study of a Small Market Town in the 17th cent', by C. Paine 1972.

'Ixworth and Ixworth Thorpe 1952–1977'.

Earliest documentary evidence of settlement c.1040/42. Grant of land by Thurketal to Abbey of St. Edmunds at Gyneworde.

Earliest existing map 1625.

Believed much of open field system had been enclosed or encroached on by 1625.

Survey of manor of Ixworth compiled 1625.

Water mill on road to Ixworth Thorpe 16th cent., rebuilt 18/19th cent., restored c.1972. Grade II listed.

Stone cross situated at Townsend (in Stow Lane) 1533. Pedestal of cross remains in grounds of Cross House in Stowlangtoft Road.

Village Hall opened 1931.

Priory Waterfowl farm 20th cent.

Reeve Lodge opened 1965 as home for the elderly.

Ixworth Lodge opened 1975 for the care of the aged and infirm.

Co-op Stores established 1923, closed 1974.

18th cent. barn: at Dairy Farm contains a thrashing floor.

16/17th cent. barn: aisled with 5 bays.

'Antiquities found at Ixworth', (with map showing position of Tollgate), PSIA Vol. 1, p.74.

'Ixworth Church Notes', PSIA Vol. 1, p.98.

'Wills and Extracts from Wills relating to Ixworth and Ixworth Thorpe', by S. Tymms. PSIA Vol. 1, p.103.

'Saxon Remains found near Ixworth', PSIA Vol. 3, p.296.

'Stone Coffin Lids, Ixworth Church', PSIA Vol. 3, p.298.

Village sign unveiled 1983.

Parish suffered from approx. 12 visitations of plague, fever at various times Houses of 16/18th cent. date line the main street, some with pargetting decoration to exterior.

Priory Farm: believed constructed as hall house. Grade II listed.
4 pairs of houses: built c.1891 under the Housing of Working Classes Act of 1890 on Stow Road.

1st cent. Roman fort and large civilian settlement excavated prior to work on the by-pass commenced 1985.

Peddars Walk estate built 1960.

Lime Tree in centre of High Street junction with Stow Road taken down c.1970.

Postcard showing fire pump 1845 in parish folder.

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